ヘタコイ
hetakoi

COVER DESIGN
OSAMU IWASAKI(POCKET)

ヘタコイ
hetakoi

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NAKANO JUNKO
中野純子

YJ
ヤンジャン
YJC

ヘタコイ
hetakoi
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中野純子

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YJ
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hetakoi

流香に誘われてタビセン恒例の
有馬温泉の住み込みバイトを始めた静。
力仕事がメインの激務だったが、
温泉で思いがけず流香との距離も急接近！
そんな中、静にアツ～い視線を送る
同い年の仲居さんが現れて…!!
温泉愛好会恋愛ストーリー第３巻!!

ヘタコイ
hetakoi

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3

中野純子
NAKANO JUNKO

ヘタコイ

3

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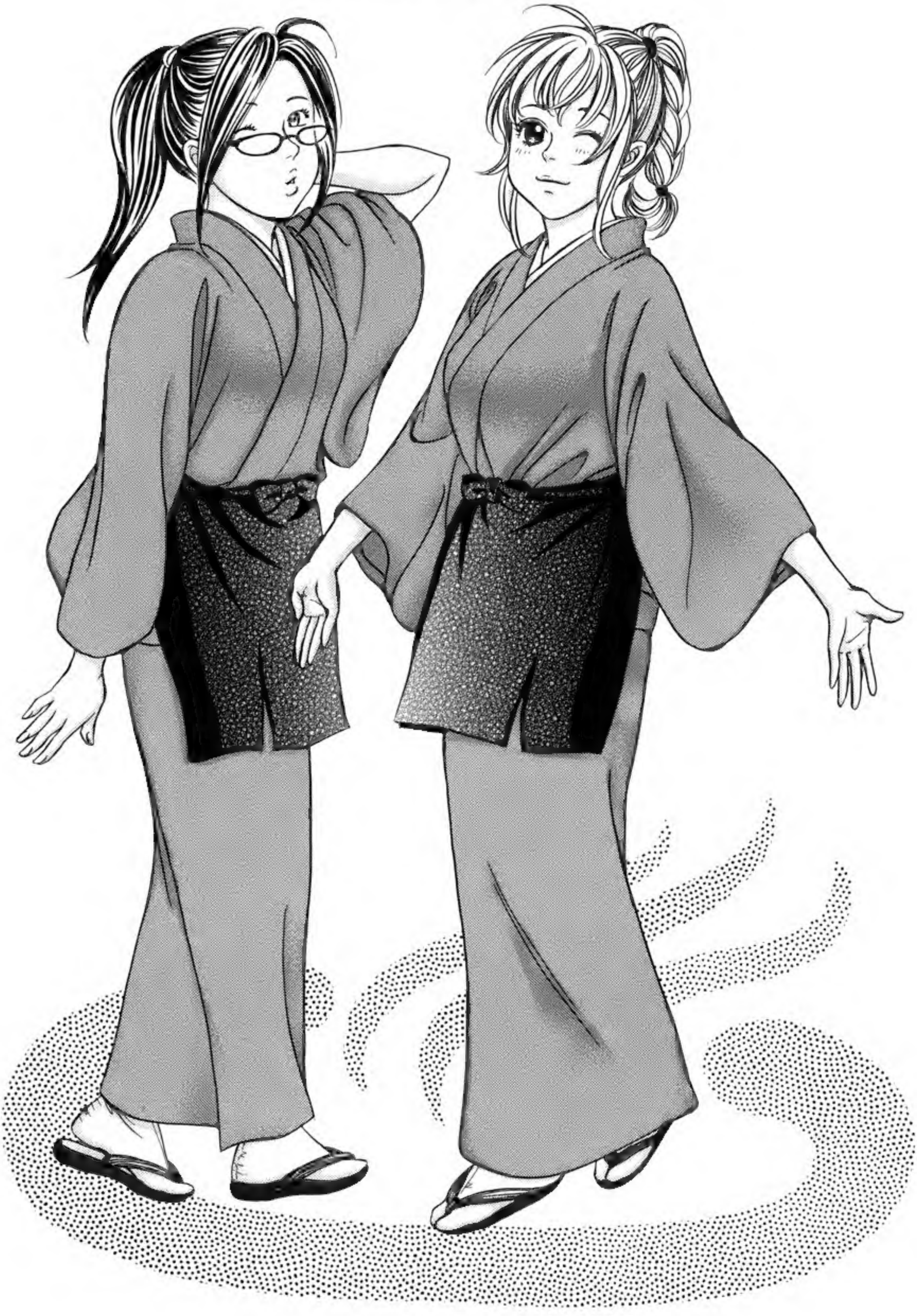
CHAPTER 13
FIRST DAY



THIS IS SHIZUKA KOMAI-KUN. HE'LL BE WORKING WITH US FOR THE NEXT 20 DAYS.

I HOPE YOU ALL GET ALONG WITH HIM.

I'M KOMAI. NICE TO MEET YOU.

YES.

YOU HAVE TO WEAR THIS HAPPI COAT OVER YOUR SUIT.

EASY TO FOLLOW RIGHT?

どきっ

どきっ

I DECIDED TO WORK IN A HOTEL FOR LIVE-IN POSITION...

FOR MY FRESHMAN WINTER BREAK,

OKAY.

TODAY YOU'LL FOLLOW ME.

STARTING TOMORROW YOU'LL BE ON YOUR OWN.

OH.

IN ARIMA ONE OF THE THREE MOST FAMOUS HOT SPRING SPOTS IN JAPAN.

GRANPA?

MY NICKNAME ...

MY TWO SENIORS FROM TABISEN,

RUKA-SAN AND MIKE-SAN ...

GRANPA, KEEP IT TOGETHER!

GRANPA.

DO YOUR BEST!

PLEASE DON'T CALL A LOWLY EMPLOYEE THAT...

OH I SEE. WELL GRANPA LET'S GO GREET OUR GUESTS.

THANK YOU! FOR COMING!

WELCOME!

THE FIRST PART OF THE JOB IS TO CARRY THE GUESTS' LUGGAGE.

WHY THANK YOU.

OH.

LET ME CARRY YOUR BAG MADAM.

SINCE THE ELEVATOR GETS FULL WITH THE ROOM CLERK AND THE OTHER GUESTS,

HOW DID YOU GET HERE!?

SO FAST!!

YOU MUST NOT MAKE THE GUESTS WAIT.

THE BAG HANDLERS DASH UP THE STAIRS BEFORE THEY GET THERE.

HURRY TO THE 4TH FLOOR!

OK!

SO THAT'S THE GIST OF IT. YOU CAN HANDLE THE REST!

OK ...

I'M GOING BACK TO THE FRONT DESK.

THIS IS PROBABLY THE PERFECT JOB FOR A YOUNG LOWLY EMPLOYEE TO BE MOST USEFUL...

NOTHING BUT RUNNING UNTIL THE GUESTS FINISH CHECKING IN.

HE'S LIKE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON OUTSIDE OF WORK..

BUT STILL,

WELL WHEN COMPARED TO WORKING THE FRONT DESK.

OOPS! GOT TO CARRY LUGGAGE.

ヨイショ

AH,

IT'S FINE. I CAN DO IT.

NO LET ME.

I'LL CARRY IT.

(STRENGTH ONLY JOBS ARE FOR THE LOWLY EMPLOYEES) IT'S A MAN'S JOB AFTER ALL.

……

5th floor it is.

WILL DO.

THEN PLEASE TAKE IT TO THE 5TH FLOOR.

非常口

AROUND 4PM THE CHECK IN PROCESS IS OVER.

WE'RE SHORT ON PEOPLE TONIGHT SO IT'LL BE BUSY LATER.

KOMAI-KUN,

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.

ALRIGHT.

RESER-VATION FOR 4 PEOPLE?

WHEN YOU HAVE A BREAK,

YOU CAN EAT AT THE MAIN OFFICE.

I FEEL BAD EATING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE WORKING.

*And side dishes from the catering service

I GUESS I'M NOT REALLY HUNGRY...

Don't be shy and have some more!

*You can get a rice bowl at the food prep station

THEY TAKE TURNS EARLY IN THE EVENING.

FEMALE EMPLOYEES EAT IN A SEPARATE DINING ROOM.

OH?

IS HE YOUR TYPE RIEKO-SAN?

A REALLY CUTE GUY CAME THIS YEAR.

OH MY! IN THAT CASE IT WOULDN'T WORK OUT!

THEY CALLED HIM "GRANPA" DURING HIGH SCHOOL.

なんだと…

.....

HE'D BE PERFECT IF I WAS 5 YEARS YOUNGER.

ALMOST!

HE HAS A BABY FACE BUT HE'S MORE LIKE AN OLD GEEZER ON THE INSIDE.

AGE DOESN'T MATTER THEN.

GOT IT!

3RD FLOOR TURTLE ROOM!

AFTER THE LUNCH BREAK THE BANQUET HALL NEEDS TO BE PREPARED.

THIS TIME ALL WE'RE CARRYING IS BEER.

BRING ONE MORE CASE TO THE DRAGON ROOM TOO!

RIGHT AWAY!

IT GETS EXTREMELY BUSY.

ONE MORE CASE PLEASE!

I'M ON IT.

AND BRING BACK THE EMPTIES.

BRING THESE TO THE PANTRY ON THE 4TH FLOOR.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE GUESTS TO HAVE THEIR MEAL,

GOT IT

TONIGHT IS SPECIAL. WE HAVE A LOT OF GUESTS THAT LOVE TO DRINK.

WE'RE ALSO SHORT STAFFED WHICH IS WHY IT'S HECTIC LIKE THIS.

IS_

IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

SO WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS...

OK ...

ONE OF THE PART TIMERS BUSTED THEIR BACK LAYING DOWN THE FUTONS!

KOMAI-KUN COME HELP!

AFTER I FINISHED CLEANING UP.

I'M SO GLAD I'M BACK IN THE REAL ORIGIN ANIMATO NOVEL

ON THE RIGHT DAY THERE WAS SOMETHING TO DO

...

YOU CAN TAKE THE BATH FIRST AND GO TO SLEEP SOON.

YOUR HARD WORK IS MUCH APPRECIATED. PRETTY TOUGH JOB RIGHT.

I'M GOING TO TRY OUT THE HOTEL'S HOT SPRING... SO DON'T MIND ME...

I COULDN'T FREELY LOOK AT RUKA-SAN IN HER WAITRESS OUTFIT.

MY SLEEP TIME WILL SHRINK

BUT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!

THE EMPLOYEES CAN USE THE HOT SPRINGS,

AFTER 12AM WHEN THE GUESTS' TIME IS OVER.

はぁ～～ん

SO IT FEELS LIKE I RESERVED THE PLACE FOR MYSELF.

SEEMS LIKE THE EMPLOYEES RARELY USE THE HOT SPRINGS.

FOR A HOT SPRINGS LOVER THIS JOB IS GREAT ♡

露天風呂 入口

NOW ♡

TIME FOR THE OPEN AIR BATH

WHO IS THAT?

MUST BE ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES

ぺこり

MANY THANKS

ぺこり

THIS PLACE IS GREAT

ぺこり

...?

GRANPA ...

THIS IS THE WOMEN'S BATH...

RUKA-SAN!?

.....!!

IT WAS WRITTEN ON THE CURTAIN RIGHT!

I HEARD THAT THEY SWITCH THE BATHS FOR MEN AND WOMEN AROUND IN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON.

ACK ...

BUT UMM...

THEY SWITCH AT 6 A.M.!

WHEN IT'S OK FOR GUESTS TO USE THEM AGAIN.

WHAT-EVER ...

JUST GET OUT...

I THOUGHT IT WAS AT MIDNIGHT...

AH...

I saw it already..

I-I'M ...

I'M SORRY!

Sigh

AH!

WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN WITH HIM...

AH!

.....

WE'VE BEEN SPOTTED

OH CRAP

ANOTHER MAN'S VOICE!?

.....

ぜぶっ！

AREN'T YOU THE GUY WHO BROUGHT OUR LUGGAGE?

あと

SORRY!

WE JUST WANTED TAKE A QUICK DIP AFTER DRINKING.

はぁ

WAIT WEREN'T YOU IN THERE JUST NOW?

DON'T BE SO STIFF!

GUESTS?

WHA!?

D-DEAR GUESTS...

THIS IS THE WOMEN'S BATH I WOULD LIKE THE MALE TO TURN BACK.

HMM

THAT WAS SIMPLY A MISTAKE!

THAT IS NOT FAIR!

YOU WERE JUST HERE WITH A CHICK YOURSELF!

WHOA SO UNFAIR!

SO IT'S ALRIGHT JUST FOR EMPLOYEES TO BATHE TOGETHER AT THIS HOTEL!

!!

EH REALLY!?

HUH?

ISN'T THIS GIRL ONE OF THE WAITRESSES HERE?

HMM

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

OF COURSE EMPLOYEES ARE FORBIDDEN TO ENGAGE IN SUCH A THING!

SO IT'D BE BAD IF THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS, RIGHT?

にやっ…

WELL SINCE WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

AH!

ピュー

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ﾋﾀｯ
EXCUSE ME!
ﾄｸﾝ
ﾄｸﾝ
ﾄｸﾝ
SHE IS ...
ABOUT TO GET OUT

AH THIS FEELS GOOD!
LIKE THIS RUKA-SAN WON'T BE ABLE...
TO GET OUT NOW EVEN IF SHE WANTED TO...

.....

YOU FOOL!

HUH?

HE'S SAYING HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HIS GIRLFRIEND NAKED!

OK...

COME ON! COVER YOUR EYES!

WHY IS HE BEING SO STINGY!

PLEASE GO ON AHEAD.

RUKA-SAN,

CAN YOU...

LEND ME YOUR SHOULDER ...?

HEY BOYFRIEND!

LOOKS LIKE YOUR GIRL IS DIZZY AND CAN'T STAND UP!

DOES SHE MEAN ME!?

MY!?

SHOUL-DER!?

OBVIOUSLY! SHE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT MY MAN.

Why are you getting all worked up for?

WHY IS HE FREAKING OUT AFTER HE WAS JUST BATHING WITH HER?

P-P-P-P-PLEASE GO AHEAD!

W-W-W...

WELL THEN!

CAN YOU WALK?

YEA...

ぎゅっ

DON'T THINK ABOUT IT.

THEN ...

LET'S TAKE IT SLOWLY ...

THAT WAS CLOSE...

ABOUT HER FLUSHED SKIN TOUCHING ME.

OR ABOUT HER HAIR AND BREATH TICKLING ME.

NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT...

IS YOUR GIRL ALRIGHT?

HEY

IT'S ...

KINDA OUR FAULT.

AH YES.

SHE PULLED THROUGH SOMEHOW.

I SEE. I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.

WE'LL GO BUY HER SOMETHING COLD.

OH I KNOW!

NOT AT ALL...

PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

1

3

SUCH TROUBLE-SOME GUESTS.

7

10

BUT THEY SEEM LIKE GOOD PEOPLE...

THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME, GRANPA.

I THINK ME BEING THERE JUST MADE THINGS WORSE...

I'M SORRY, BUT I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO ASK FOR HUSH MONEY OR MAKE SOME DEMANDS.

ME TOO.

I WAS THINKING ALL SORTS OF SCARY THINGS I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.

IT'S LIKE,

YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE TO SAVE ME.

YEA ...

NO PROBLEM

IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO

I'M WITHIN DISTANCE TO PROTECT YOU.

AS LONG AS,

THANK YOU FOR WALKING ME ALL WAY HOME

GOOD NIGHT

THAT NIGHT,
THE STARS LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE SHINING SO CLOSE.

ﾍｸｼｮﾝ!

STILL ADJUSTING AFTER NOT DOING THIS IN A WHILE?
YOU LOOK TIRED.
OOPS!

YOU REALLY LOVE IT THOUGH.

At least for the first day.

I SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MIKE-SAN'S EXAMPLE AND HELD OFF USING THE HOT SPRING LAST NIGHT.

YUP!

OH YEAH.

LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO GRANPA.

SAME AGE AS US. ♡

THIS IS KURUMI KONISHI-CHAN. SHE'S WORKED HERE FOR TWO YEARS.

GRANPA.

GOOD MORNING!

.....

LIKE WISE.

I'M SHIZUKA KOMAI.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

HELLO.

YOU'RE IN HIGH SPIRITS TODAY.

GOOD MORNING.

LEAVING ALREADY?

HELLO YOU TWO. ♡

HEY!

CHAPTER 14
LOVE CHAT

AT THE HOT SPRING HOTEL,

I START WORK AT 7 A.M. (WOMEN START AT 8 A.M.)

UH.

WHERE IS OHAN KONAN-KUN?

HE WENT TO CHINA ALREADY

BUT YOU DO GET A 2 HOUR LUNCH BREAK.

MY WORK SHIFT ENDS AROUND 10 P.M.

IT'S HARD WORK TO SAY THE LEAST.

I'D LOVE TO THOROUGHLY CLEAN THIS ROOM UP...

OTHERWISE I FEEL LIKE AN INTRUSIVE FREELOADER...

I CAN TAKE A NAP IN THE DORM.

I CAN'T SLEEP HERE...

(CAN'T HELP IT) I'LL GO OUT.

...RUKA-SAN?

AH!

I WAS WONDERING,

IF YOU WANTED TO COME WITH ME TO THE OPEN AIR BATH.

I'LL GO GET READY RIGHT AWAY.

OF...

OF COURSE I'LL GO!

カポ

カポ

GOING WITH RUKA-SAN (IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO GO IN TOGETHER) TO A HOT SPRING!

GETTING OUT FIRST AND WAITING LIKE THIS.

IT FEELS GREAT.

IS THE BEST THING EVER!!

NO, NOT AT ALL. DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ME.

That doesn't sound like you're lovers.

IT'S LIKE WE ARE LOVERS!

SORRY

COME ON NOW PLEASE STAY IN UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED!

TOO BAD I HAD TO GET OUT QUICKLY.

BUT NOT TO THE POINT WHERE YOU GET DIZZY AND COLLAPSE!

DID I MAKE YOU WAIT LONG?

AW SHUCKS!

DON'T SAY THAT!

IT'S EMBARRASSING ...

THAT WAS SO CUTE...!

SINCE WE JUST GOT OUT OF A CARBONATED SPRING LET'S GO SEE THE SOURCE OF THE CARBONIC SPRING NEXT

OH YEAH.

THAT ...

.....

AFTER THAT HAPPENED.

I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD GO BAD,

Hm. The carbonic acid is very minute?

Yeah?

They used to make cider back in the day with this

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US...

IT IS CERTAINLY SHRINKING.

That's carbonated too right

Let's drink some Anima cider on the way back to get the taste out

HMM?

YOUR HAIR IS DAMP...

YEAH.

I BELIEVE THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

TOGETHER? YOU TOO ARE PRETTY CLOSE.

I JUST GOT BACK FROM THE HOT SPRINGS WITH GRANPA.

THAT'S BECAUSE WE BOTH LOVE HOT SPRINGS!

SINCE MIKE-SAN WAS ASLEEP WE WENT TOGETHER.

IT'S TOUGH GOING TO THE SPRING EVERY NIGHT.

IT'S, BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM ON THE INSIDE...

SO THEY SAY HE'S LIKE OLD FART BECAUSE HE LOVES HOT SPRINGS?

IF THAT GUY IS LIKE AN OLD FART.

THE GUYS IN TOKYO MUST BE VERY HIGH LEVEL THEN...

IS EVERYONE SO MUCH COOLER?

GRANPA,

IS A VERY HIGH LEVEL GUY EVEN IN TOKYO.

NO, KURUMI-CHAN.

ACCORDING TO "MY CRITERIA" AT LEAST.

.....

ALRIGHTY! BACK TO WORK.

THANKS FOR DOING MY HAIR. ♡

OKAY

WE'RE FINE HERE.

GO HELP CLEAN UP THE DRAGON ROOM AFTER THE PARTY IS OVER

ALRIGHT!

TONIGHT I'M WORKING WITH RUKA-SAN!

OOH?

AH! ME TOO!

I WANT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE WAITRESS TOO!

IT WAS A LOT OF FUN!

THANK YOU!

THANKS!

LET'S SHAKE!

ME TOO!

ME TOO! SHAKE MY HAND!

ME TOO! ME TOO!

LET'S SHAKE! LET'S SHAKE!

RUKA-SAN HAS IT ROUGH TOO...

Oh my

!!

YOU'RE A REALLY GOOD GIRL!

ぎゅっ

WHOA! WHOA!!

WAITRESS! HUG! GIVE ME A HUG!

ME TOO! ME TOO!

ME TOO!

WHOA...

STOP GETTING SO FRIENDLY WITH HER!

STOP IT!

EVEN IF THEY ARE GUESTS THIS IS...!

IT'S ALRIGHT.

IT RARELY ESCALATES TO MORE THAN THAT.

AT THIS JOB,

YOU CAN'T WORK HERE IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THAT MUCH AT LEAST.

IF IT DOES I'LL STOP THEM

大広間鉄

.....

OKAY
...

HOW ABOUT WE CONTINUE THE PARTY OVER HERE?

HEY EVERYONE!

THE KARAOKE ROOM IS FREE.

LET'S GO!

OH!

THAT SOUNDS GREAT!

Sigh

TIRED GRANPA?

I'M FINE.

LET'S HURRY UP AND CLEAN THE ROOM

"GRANPA"

I LOST TO MY NICKNAME ...

KURUMI-SAN!

I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW.

GOOD NIGHT.

UM...

ABOUT BEFORE ...

THANK YOU.

.....

I WOULD HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS HOTEL,

AND TO THE TABISEN MEMBERS WHO TRUSTED IN ME TO WORK HERE.

IF YOU HAD NOT STOPPED ME.

I WOULD HAVE GRABBED ONE OF THE GUESTS.

EH...? UM...

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH THE SAME AGE,

YOU'RE AN AMAZING PERSON!

ACTING SO CHILDISH, TRYING TO MONOPOLIZE HER...

かあっ

.....!

YOU REACTED IN AN INSTANT.

THE MOMENT YOU SAW ME MAKE A MOVE.

NOW, NOW NO NEED TO BE SO HUMBLE.

I...

I JUST HAPPENED TO BE THERE! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS STARING AT YOU THE WHOLE TIME!

YOU JUST WANTED TO HELP OUT RUKA-SAN AS WELL, RIGHT?

I'M SURE,

RUKA-CHAN...

.....

I GUESS ...

YOU ARE...IN WITH...

HUH...?

YOU ARE BIT OF AN OLD FART!

IT'S JUST LIKE RUKA-CHAN SAYS!

REALLY...?

.....

NORMALLY A GUY IN HIS 20'S WOULDN'T DO THAT.

GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO THANK ME AFTER THAT.

I'M SORRY ...

HUH ...

SEE!

IT NEVER EVEN CLICKED WITH YOU!

IS THAT FUNNY?

MUST BE KANSAI THING?

SEE! SEE!

NOW YOU'RE APOLOGIZING FOR NO REASON!

LADIES FIRST.

ISN'T THAT THE POLLY HERE FOR THE MALE STAFF?

ARE ALL THE GUYS IN TOKYO

.....

UP

THE FLIGHTS

YOU JUST NOTICED IT NOW? YOU'RE SO CRUEL!

WOW

IS IT REALLY?

NO

I HAD NEVER NOTICED.

I LEARNED THAT FIRST HAND WHEN WORKING HERE.

IT'S COMPLETELY OK!

SURELY YOU MUST HAVE WORK TO DO!

YOU PLANNED ON GOING TO BED EARLY, SINCE YOU HAD TO GET UP FOR SPRINGS THIS AFTERNOON.

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL TO GO TO THE OPEN AIR BATHS AT NIGHT ALONE.

IN THE WORST CASE THAT YOU WERE ATTACKED YOU'D HAVE NO WAY OUT...

BUT YEAH.

THAT NIGHT

WHAT ARE YOU TWO BEAUTIES TALKING ABOUT?

I WAS THINKING HOW I'D RATHER BE A GUY WHEN I GO INTO THE HOT SPRINGS.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE MEET HERE

OH HOW RARE!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

THIS HAS BECOME AN ADDICTION

YEAH

!!

YOU DON'T SAY

THIS IS YOUR SECOND TIME AT THE HOT SPRINGS TODAY RUMA CHAN

YEA...

WERE YOUR BREASTS ALWAYS THAT BIG?

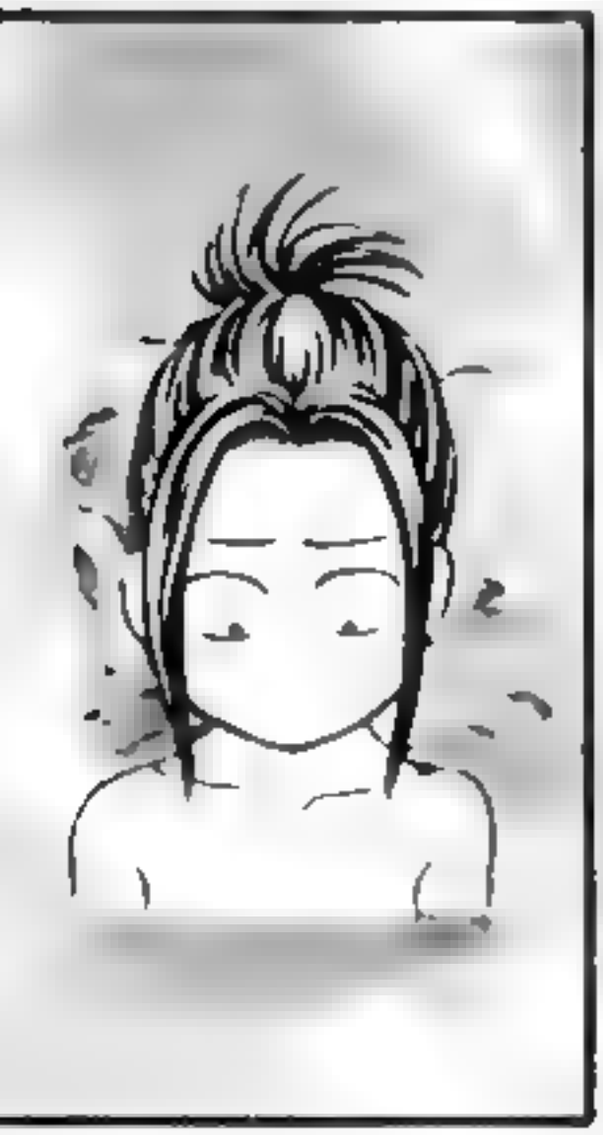
KU...

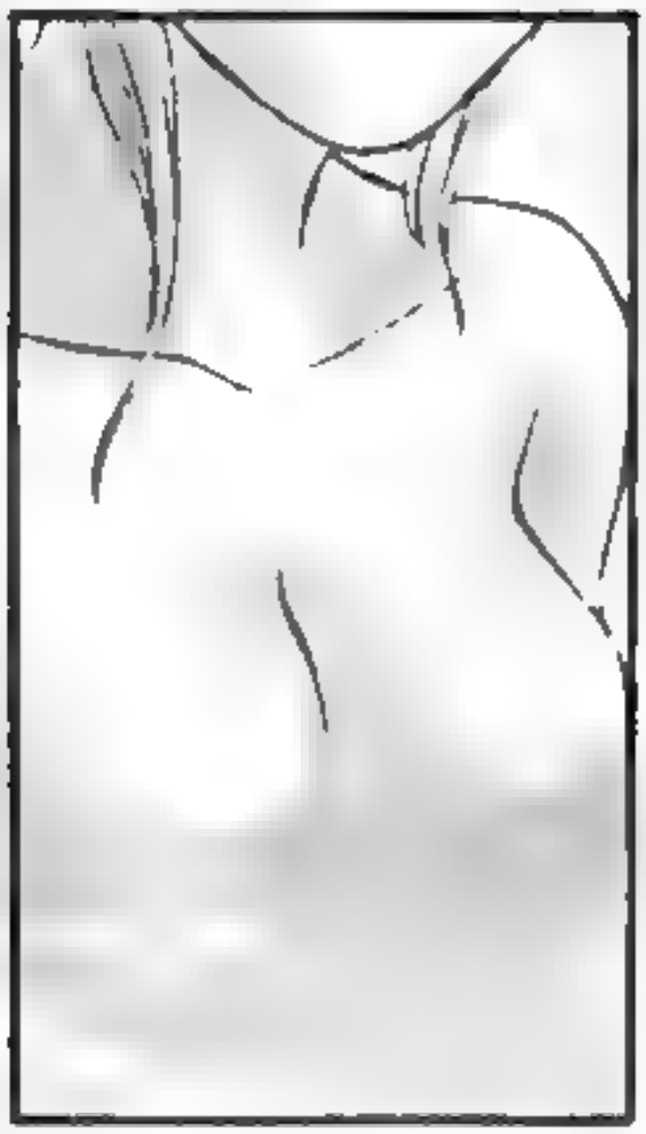
KURUMI-CHAN...

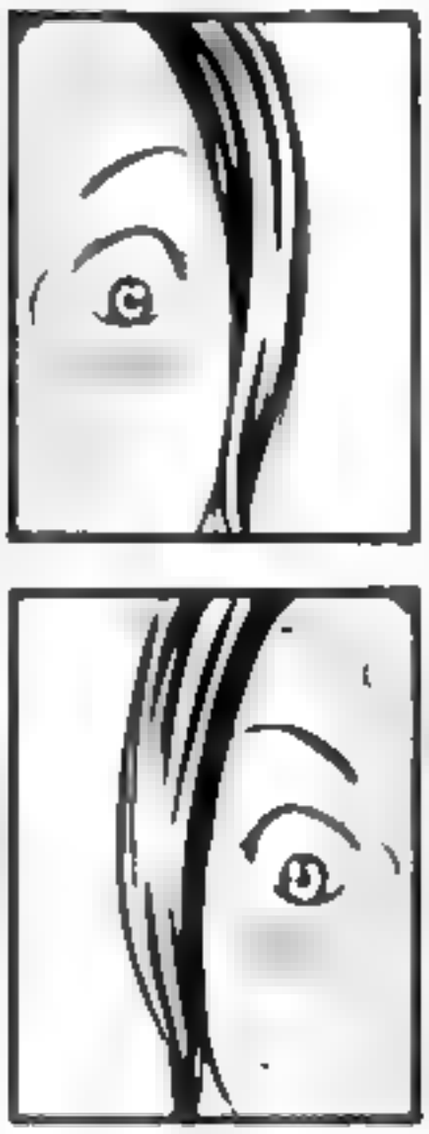
YEAH, IF YOU HAVE A BIG CHEST YOU CAN'T WEAR JAPANESE CLOTHES PROPERLY UNLESS YOU WRAP THEM UP

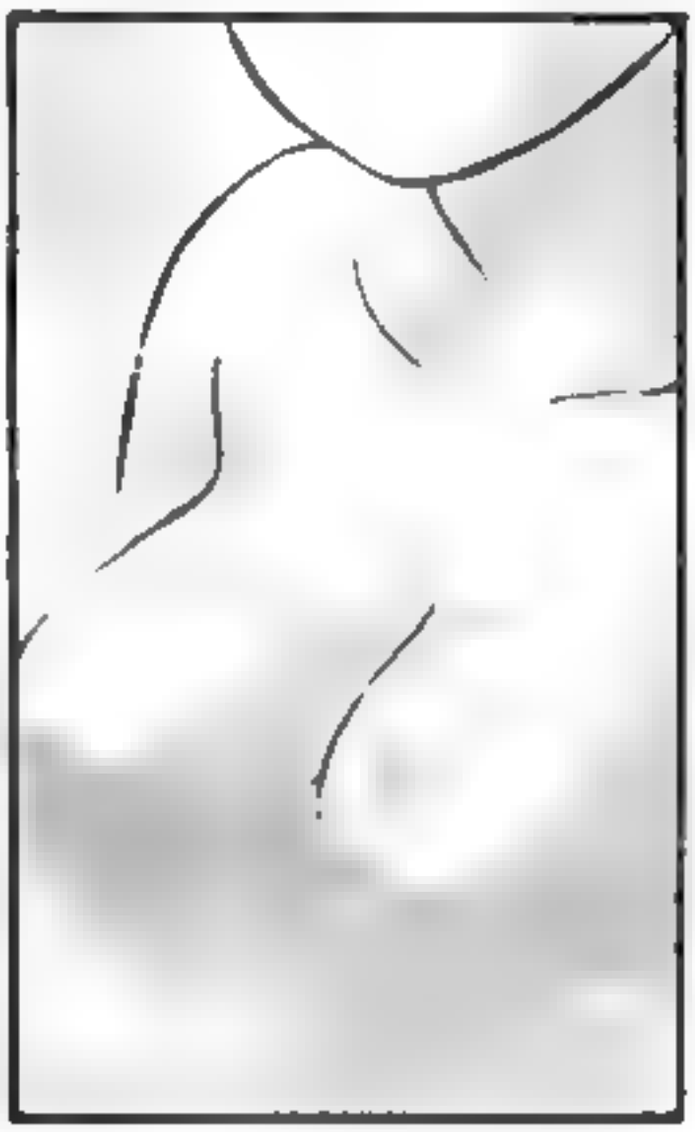
HIDE?

IT'S BECAUSE I HIDE MY CHEST WHEN I WEAR JAPANESE CLOTHES..









I'M GETTING OUT NOW ...

I'M SORRY ...

I DON'T THINK SO.

What's wrong with her?

DID I GET IN THE WAY OF SOMETHING...?

YEAH

IF WE WERE ROOMING TOGETHER LIKE LAST YEAR WE COULD TALK A LOT MORE.

I FEEL BAD FOR MIKE-SAN.

BUT I'M GLAD THIS GIVES US A CHANCE TO TALK SINCE IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH THE BOYFRIEND?

SO...

ALSO,

HE WASN'T MY BOYFRIEND TO BEGIN WITH!

...I WAS REJECTED!

EVERY-THING.

IT WAS JUST MY MISUNDER-STANDING.

SORRY FOR NOT REPORTING IT TO YOU SOONER.

I SPOKE SO FONDLY OF HIM, BUT WE WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A SENIOR AND A JUNIOR AT OUR CLUB.

IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING.

I...

I SEE...

I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU TWO WERE INTO EACH OTHER -

THE WAY YOU TALKED ABOUT HIM

ヘタコイ❸

LIKE HE LOVES YOU.

BUT HE CAN'T SAY THAT HE DOES..

THERE HAS TO BE A REASON

THERE...

YEAH ...

THAT'S DEFINITELY NOT IT

I'M 100% SURE OF THAT

LIKE SIBLINGS SEPARATED AT BIRTH!?

MAYBE ...

IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...

I CAN'T HELP BUT TRY TO THINK OF A REASON.

WELL THEN.

IT'S YOUR TURN TO TALK KURUMI-CHAN!

DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND OR SOMEONE YOU LIKE?

BUT IT WAS JUST NOT MEANT TO BE.

ISN'T THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE SAYING OTHER-WISE!?

HIYA!

バミッ バミッ バミッ

NO ...

NO ONE LIKE THAT ...

THERE IS..

SOMEONE I LIKE...

KOMAI-SAN...

IS IT SOMEONE FROM THE HOTEL STAFF!?

WHO!?

WHO!?

RUKA-CHAN...

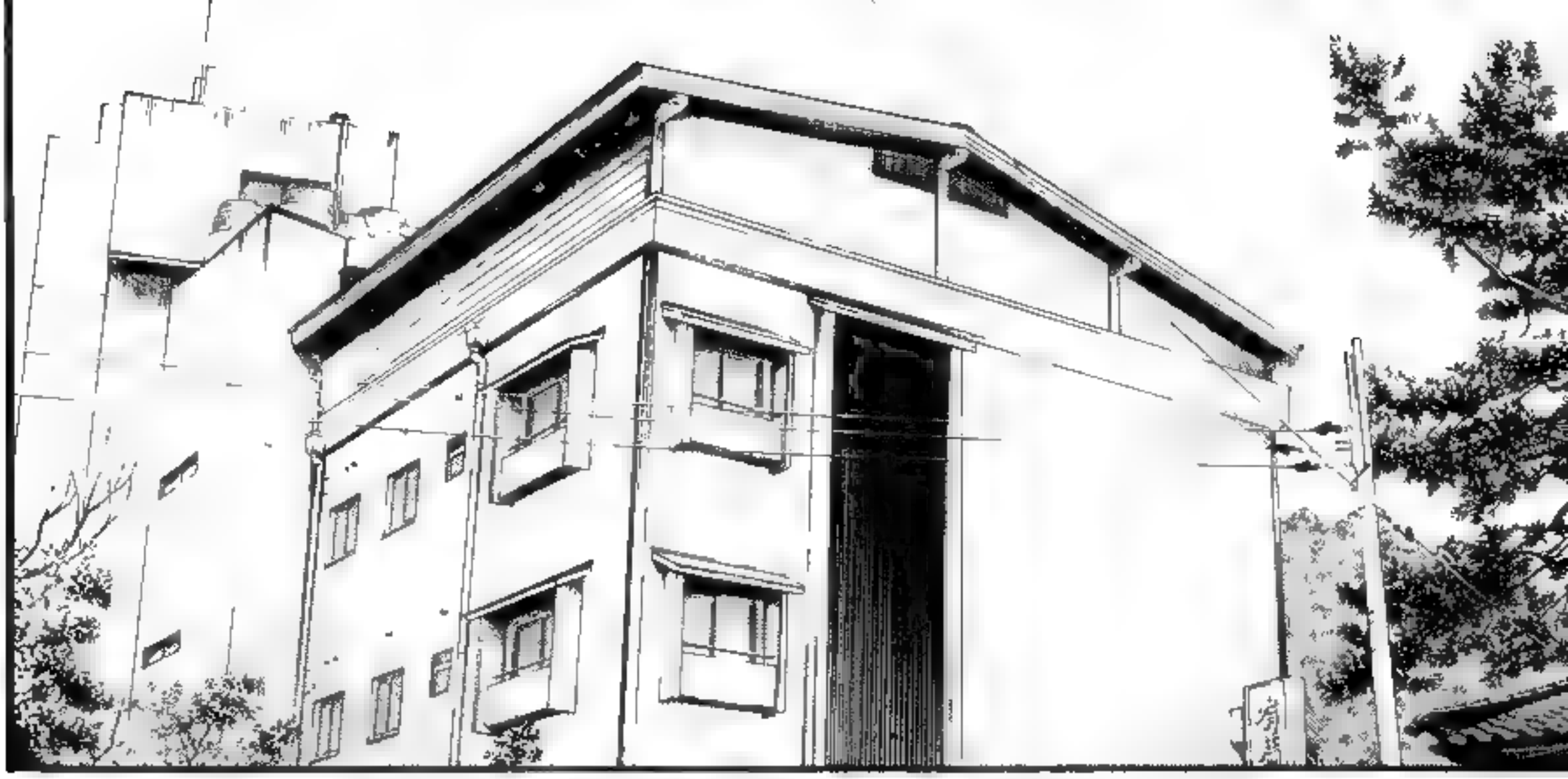
I...

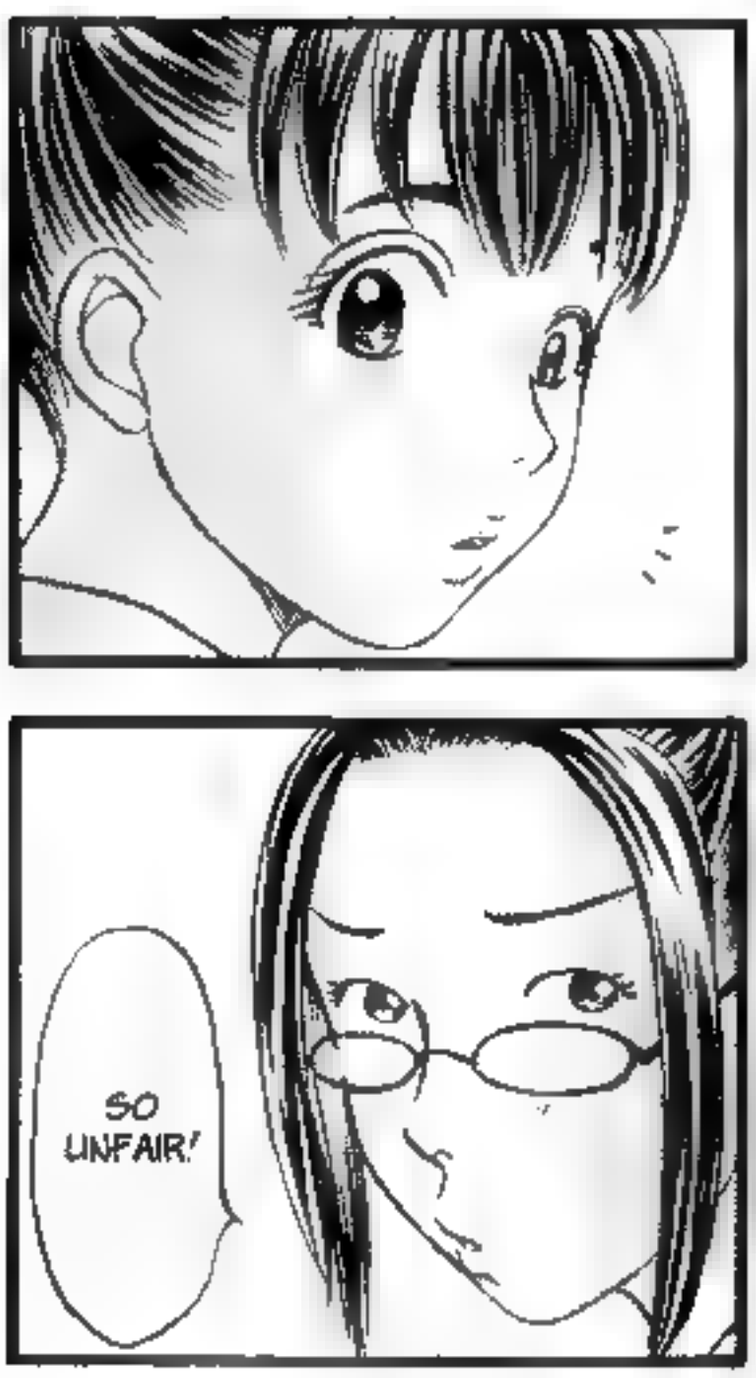
IS IT OKAY IF I LIKE HIM...?

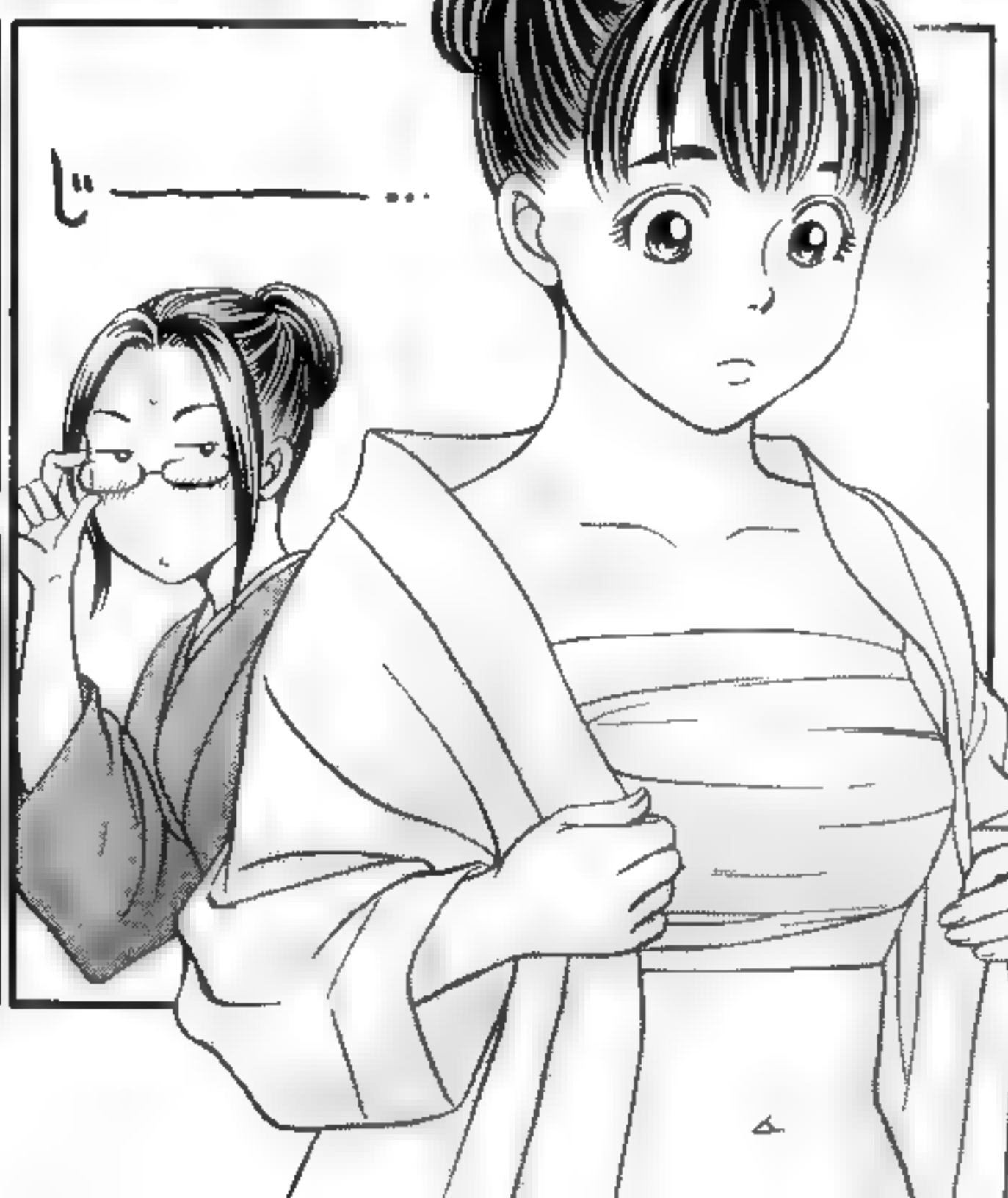
A STORM WAS QUIETLY BREWING.

IN A PLACE I DIDN'T KNOW OF ...

CHAPTER 15
CHANCE




SO UNFAIR!



MIKE-SAN ...

THE UNFAIRNESS OF IT IS JUST!

HOW CAN THERE BE WOMEN WHO HIDE THEIR CHEST BECAUSE THEIR BREASTS ARE TOO BIG!

PUT THAT ASIDE! LIFT THEM UP! THERE ARE PLENTY OF SAD WOMEN WHO TRY TO LOOK GOOD USING PADDING...

YOU'RE ALSO LIMITED TO WEARING WESTERN STYLE CLOTHES. AND THEY GET IN THE WAY WHEN YOU EXERCISE.

THEY ARE NOTHING BUT AN INCONVENI-ENCE.

THEY ARE BAD ON YOUR BACK. THE BRAS ARE MORE EXPENSIVE TO BUY...

NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM HAVING BIG BREASTS.

WHO WOULD BE HAPPY WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

PRETTY EXTRAVAGANT IF YOU ASK ME! HMPH!

IT ALL WORKS OUT IN THE END SINCE THEY MAKE YOU POPULAR WITH THE GUYS!

SO IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH BREASTS, RIGHT?

I'M NOT POPULAR AT ALL.

IT'S BECAUSE GIVEN THE CHANCE YOU ARE TOO GUARDED KURUMI-CHAN.

POPULAR GIRLS TEND TO BE FAIRLY UNGUARDED.

IF I WAS I WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SINGLE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS!

A LOLI FACE WITH HUGE BREASTS IS THE ULTIMATE FANTASY!? THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY ATTENTION!?

YOU'VE GOT TO KIDDING!

TELL ME MORE ABOUT BEING "FAIRLY UNGUARDED"!

R-RIEKO-SAN!

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHEST SIZES.

RUKA-CHAN...

I...

A CHANCE ...

IS IT OKAY IF I LIKE KOMI-SAN...?

CAN I...?

UH...

ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?

WHY-

IF-

YOU LIKE HIM AS WELL-

I WOULDN'T WANT TO GET IN YOUR WAY-

.....

IN LOVE WITH THAT GUY...

IF...

YOU'RE STILL...

COULD YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE?

JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

I'LL PROBABLY JUST GET REJECTED.

SO JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT, OK?

OKAY ...

OKAY ...

I'LL GO ON AHEAD.

I'M SO STUPID!

SHIZUKA-SAN.
……

SHIZUKA KOMAI-SAN!
SHIZUKA-SAN.

SINCE YOU CALL ME "KURUMI-SAN",

I FIGURED I CAN CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME TOO...

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT ME RIGHT!?

OH...!

.....

I'M SORRY! I'LL STOP IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT!

AH!

WELL ...

I DO IT BECAUSE ALL THE OTHER WAITRESSES CALL YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME AS WELL...

I'M EMBARRASSED THAT I'M JUST NOT USED TO IT.

I DON'T MIND.

IF YOU'D LIKE PLEASE EAT THIS.

?

YES I DO. WHY DO YOU ASK?

SHIZUKA-SAN,

DO YOU LIKE CURRY?

EH...

I IMAGINE YOU'RE TIRED OF EATING FROM THE CATERING SERVICE ALL THE TIME...

I HAVE A BAD HABIT OF IMPOSING THE LEFT OVERS ON OTHERS!

.....

SO LIKE I WAS SAYING...

I MADE TOO MUCH. SO EVEN IF I SPLIT IT UP WITH RUKA-CHAN AND MIKE-SAN I'LL STILL HAVE LEFT OVERS!

THEN,

I'LL GLADLY TAKE IT.

THANK YOU.

OK THEN!

I'LL LEAVE IT IN THE FRIDGE IN THE OFFICE.

SHE'S A VERY KIND GIRL.

RUKA-CHAN.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING KOMAI-KUN HE'S TAKING A NAP IN THE KARAOKE ROOM.

WHY ARE YOU AIMLESSLY WANDERING AROUND DURING YOUR BREAK?

AH...

!.....

REALLY?

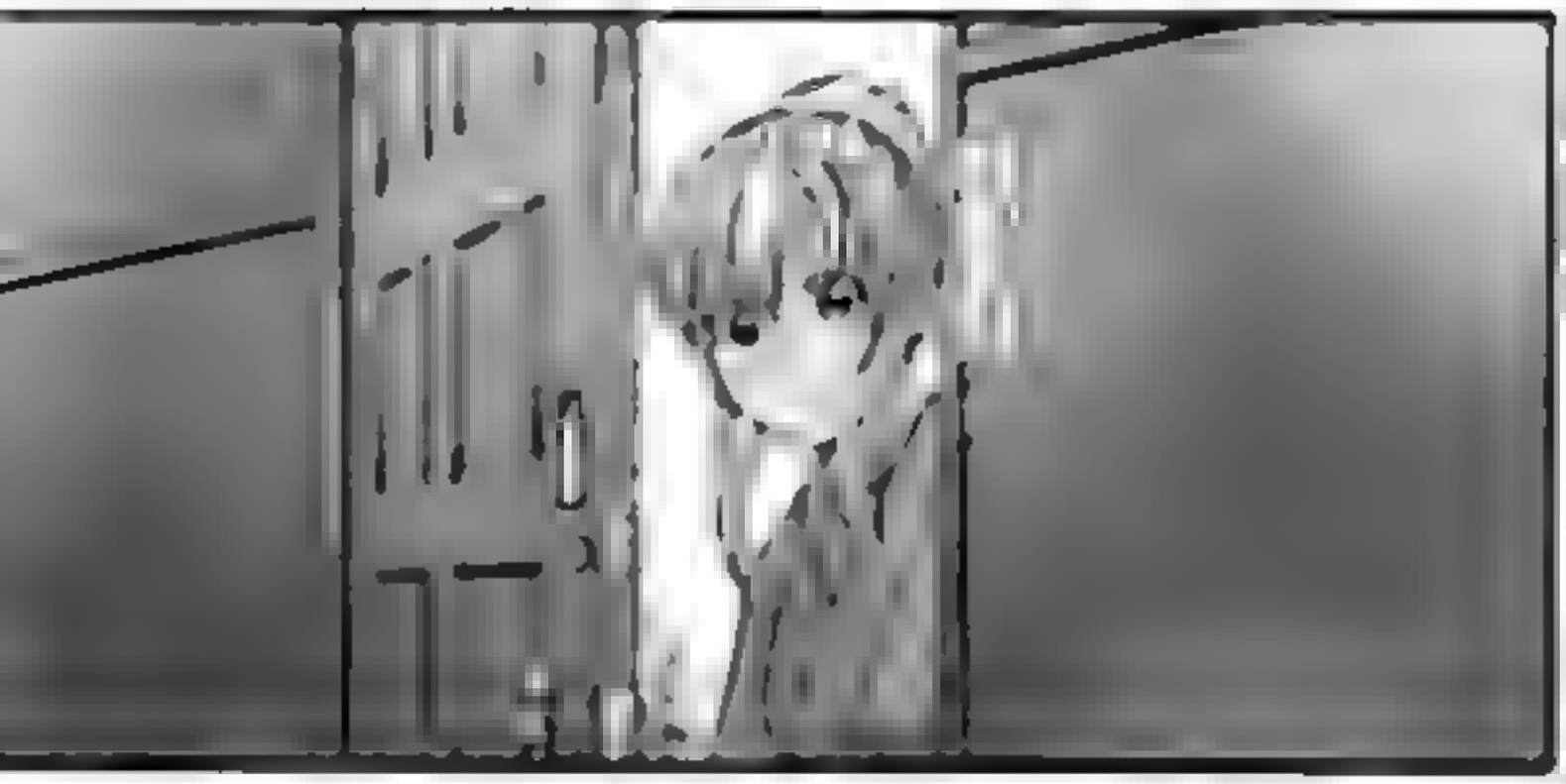
I-I-I-I-IT'S NOT ...

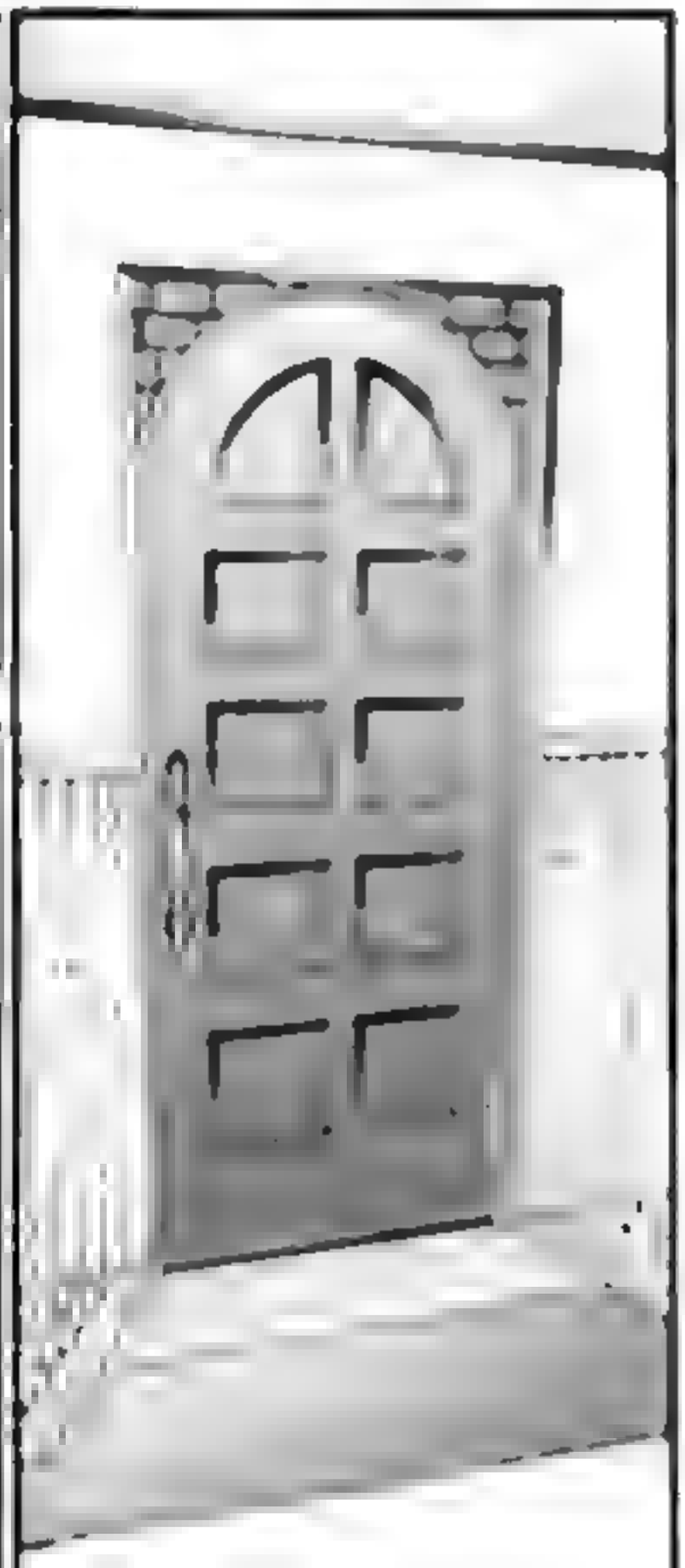
LIKE I WAS LOOKING FOR HIM...

ENJOY YOUR BREAK.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE SO RESERVED.

I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT KURUMI-CHAN.





WHEN THAT HAPPENED ...

YOU LOOK YOUR BEST WHEN YOU SMILE.

PLEASE DON'T CRY!

I'M FINE NOW.

THERE IS NO REASON TO CRY ANYMORE...

YEAH ...

RUI...

RUKA-SAN!?

Ah

Ah

WHAT TIME IS IT!?
UP...!?

I HAD SOMETHING ON MY MIND...

LOOK! HOW IT IS SO DIM AND QUIET HERE.

A LITTLE AFTER 12... MAYBE?

WHY THAT EARLY?

I SAW HOW GOOD GRANPA LOOKED SLEEPING THAT I STARTED DOZING OFF...

AND...

.....!

A..!

IF WE STAY COOPED UP IN HERE PEOPLE MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA!

Y-YES OF COURSE!

A-ANYWAY WE SHOULD GET GOING, RIGHT!?

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU GO TO THE HOT SPRINGS SO MUCH!

ON YOUR NEXT DAY OFF YOU SHOULD REST...

I WONDER IF THE LACK OF SLEEP IS CATCHING UP TO ME!

.....

IF ONLY OUR DAYS OFF WERE THE SAME,

I WOULD HAVE INVITED YOU OUT FOR A DRIVE...

I'M OFF TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY.

YOU'RE OFF THURSDAY AND FRIDAY.

DID YOU SEE...

THE SHIFT LIST FOR NEXT WEEK?

I'LL JUST SLEEP ALL DAY. OR SPEND IT CLEANING UP MY DORM.

YUP, TOO BAD.

I-IS THAT SO...

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL!

I'M NOT SAYING THAT TO FLATTER YOU!

T-THIS WAS VERY DELICIOUS!

THAT IS NOT A ROUX YOU CAN BUY AT A MARKET RIGHT!? I WOULD LOVE TO GET THE RECIPE!

BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU LIKED IT. I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU AGAIN...

IT'S JUST MY OWN RECIPE THAT I WHIPPED UP...

IF THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU...

MAYBE SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES STRENGTH?

I SOUND SO DEMANDING!

SORRY!

OH.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

!

AH...

UMM...

GOOD NIGHT.

WELL THEN,

IT'S OKAY IF THERE ISN'T,

I'LL BUY YOU SOME SWEETS AS A THANK YOU.

.....

.....

THERE'S SOMETHING BIG...

I HAVE A DAY OFF ON TUESDAY...

I WOULD LIKE TO BUY...

W....

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME SHOPPING WITH ME..?

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...

I KNOW IT'S A BOLD REQUEST!

I'M SORRY.

SO YOU WANT ME TO CARRY IT?

KURUMI-SAN IS SO SHORT IT WOULD BE HASSLE.

For you to carry a huge bag

I'LL GO.

ヘタコイ❸

I'VE BEEN TEMPERED BY THIS JOB AFTER ALL.

LEAVE IT TO ME!

I WOULD FEEL BAD IF I JUST MADE YOU CARRY EVERYTHING...

SO PLEASE LET ME...

SHOW YOU AROUND KOBE.

A...

ALSO I...

AFTER COMING ALL THE WAY TO KOBE...

I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU ...

MORE PLACES BESIDES ARIMA

I WOULD NEED TO RETURN THAT FAVOR WITH ANOTHER...

BUT THEN ...

THAT'S ALRIGHT!

TOO BAD.

THE DAYS OFF AREN'T THE SAME. WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT TO HANG OUT IN KOBE.

OH WELL THE PLAN WAS TO SLEEP IN ALL DAY...

IF YOU...

DON'T WANT TO YOU CAN JUST SAY NO...

.....

THEN,

I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER.

FIRST OF ALL,
I DON'T EVEN THINK GRANPA IS INTERESTED IN STUFF LIKE THAT.
HOHOH!
YEAH?
THEN WHY WERE YOU ALL GIDDY WHEN YOU BOUGHT THAT CAFE GUIDE?
I...
I WAS NOT!
I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU AND ME SPENDING OUR DAYS OFF TOGETHER, OK?
にやっ…
HEY RUKA,
YOU KNOW WHAT?
…!

YOUR HEAD IS SO FULL OF BRAINPA

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT CHECKING OUT A CAFE WITH ME, HUH?

BUT I SEE NOW IT IS!

PLEASE STOP MAKING FUN OF ME!!

SHEESH MIKE-SAN!

ALRIGHT THEN I'LL BE ON MY WAY

THANK YOU

ARE YOU REALLY GOING SPEND IT CLEANING THOUGH?

I THINK YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT SANNOMIYA

Weather is great too

YEAH

THAT'S RIGHT

YOU ARE OFF AS OF THIS AFTERNOON.

AAH

EH...!

I DECIDED TO HAVE KURUMI-SAN SHOW ME AROUND MOTOMACHI AND SANNOMIYA.

WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW.

.....

I'LL BUY YOU A SOUVENIR.

.....

CHAPTER 16
DAY OFF

I HAVE A DAY OFF WELL PAST THE HALFWAY POINT OF MY WORK LIFE AT THE ARIMA HOT SPRINGS.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE LEFT THE TOWN OF ARIMA.

OOH!

I'M FINALLY HERE...

THE PART OF MOTOMACHI THAT IS CHINATOWN!

THE SCALE OF THE TOWN IS,

BUT THERE ARE NOT THIS MANY STANDS THERE AND IT'S MUCH QUIETER.

IS THAT SO?

I'M HAVING KURUMI-SAN, A SENIOR FROM WORK SHOW ME AROUND.

THERE ARE SO MANY STANDS IT FEELS LIKE A FESTIVAL IS GOING ON!

COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE CHINATOWN IN YOKOHAMA, RIGHT?

GO AHEAD

DO YOU MIND IF I HAVE ONE BEER?

¥1400

¥1250

¥350

¥230

WE'RE ON A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR OF KOBE FOR HALF A DAY.

WE'LL EAT FROM THE STANDS OF COURSE!!

SO WHICH RESTAURANT SHOULD WE GO HAVE LUNCH IN? OR...

.....

I FEEL A LITTLE GUILTY.

SINCE RUKA-SAN AND MIKE-SAN ARE AT WORK.

IF I WAS ALONE TOGETHER WITH RUKA-SAN THIS WOULD BE THE BEST.

HAHA!

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IS-

HAVING A BEER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY THAT GOOD?

SHIZUKA-SAN,

WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

刈包

¥230

HOW COULD I THINK SUCH A THING?

THAT'S VERY RUDE TO KURUMI-SAN.

IF IT'S PLACES THAT WOULD MAKE A GIRL HAPPY I KNOW A FEW.

WELL I'M STUMPED.

HM...

AH...

AS A MATTER OF FACT, OUTSIDE OF CHINATOWN NOTHING IN PARTICULAR...

BUT MIKE-SAN HAD A DIFFERENT DAY OFF,

SO IT WAS JUST RUKA-CHAN AND I...

OH,

YES I DID.

YOU SHOWED RUKA-SAN AND MIKE-SAN AROUND LAST YEAR RIGHT?

EVEN IF...

IT'S VERY FEMALE CENTRIC...?

I'M VERY IGNORANT WHEN IT COMES TO STUFF GIRLS LIKE.

SO IT'LL BE A LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

THEN LET'S DO THE SAME COURSE!

EH?

.....

ALRIGHT THEN...

THE SAME SCENERY RUKA-SAN SAW.

THE SAME PATH SHE WALKED ON.

HMM ...

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT, HIGH COLLAR OR MORE LIKE TRENDY...?

IT REALLY SEEMS..

LIKE A TOWN ANY GIRL WOULD LOVE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

TOKYO HAS EVEN MORE TRENDY SPOTS, RIGHT?

IT'S STARTING TO MAKE ME FEEL UNBELIEVABLY LAME...

YES. BUT...

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TOKYO. TRENDY SPOTS HAVE JUST BEEN UNRELATED TO MY WAY OF LIFE...

SO THIS IS THE KIND OF PLACE YOU TAKE A GIRL OUT ON DATE?

A DAINTY CAFES OR TEA ROOMS LIKE THIS...

I KNOW THAT DATING HER,

WOULD BRING ABOUT MANY HURDLES...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S DECIDED THAT WE'RE GOING TO START DATING YET

STILL IT DOESN'T HURT TO GET FAMILIAR WITH THIS/

!

BREASTS ARE HUGE!!

KURUMI-SAN'S...

NO ...

NOTHING AT ALL.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

THEY ARE EVEN BIGGER THAN RUKA-SAN'S!?

.....

IT'S HARD TO LOOK HER IN THE FACE NOW.

COOL ...

I'LL CARRY ALL OF IT!

I WANT TO BUY SOME FABRIC AND KITCHEN GOODS TODAY.

WAS I A LITTLE TOO DARING...?

BUT ...

Nature →

HE'S NOT LOOKING AT ME AT ALL...

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT POPULAR WITH GUYS.
IT'S BECAUSE GIVEN THE CHANCE YOU'RE TOO GUARDED KURUMI-CHAN.
I CAN'T LET HIM THINK I'M A PRUDE!
THIS IS MY ONE AND ONLY CHANCE!

ヘタコイ❸

RUKA-CHAN!

HEY RUKA!?

WHY THE HELL DID YOU RAM ME WITH THAT!

PANTRY

I...I'M SO SORRY!

YEOUCH!!

SORRY! I'LL GO GET IT RIGHT NOW!

AH!

WHERE IS THE SOUP STOCK I ASKED YOU FOR?

HOLD ON!

WHY ARE YOU WEARING THOSE SANDALS?

HM?

NUM..?

AH...!

THIS IS TROU-BLING

PANTRY

IT'S LIKE YOUR MIND IS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

YOU HAVE BEEN SPACING OUT THIS WHOLE AFTERNOON

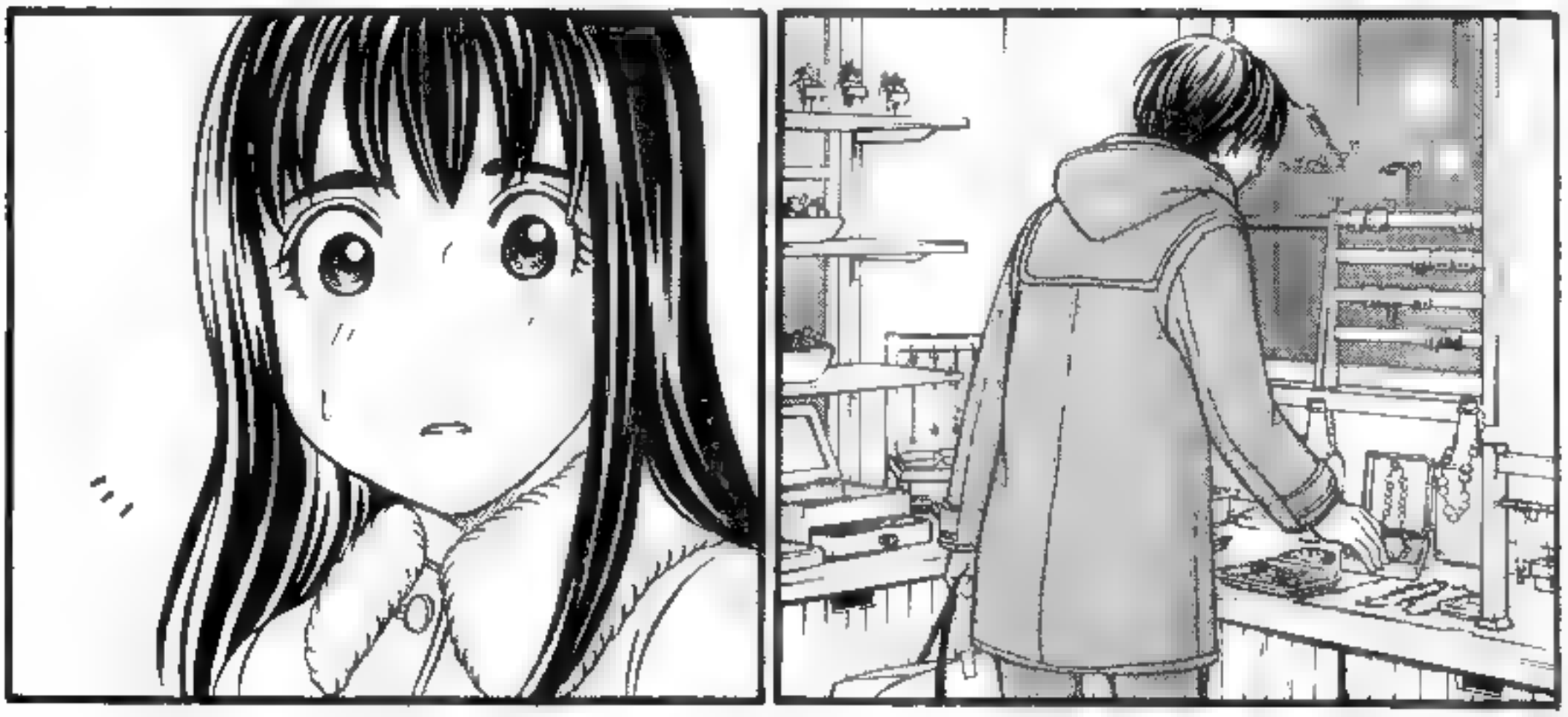
I'M SORRY -

ヘタコイ❸

WAIT!
I'M JUST HAVING HIM CARRY STUFF WHILE SHOPPING LIKE THIS!

WOMEN,
REALLY GET A KICK OUT OF WINDOW SHOPPING...

TODAY WILL END WITHOUT MAKING ANY KIND PROGRESS!
I HAVEN'T SEDUCED HIM OR GOTTEN HIS ATTENTION
...



!

FOR RUKA-CHAN?

...!!

IS THAT_

LIKE THIS ONE.

OR THAT ONE...

RUKA-CHAN LIKES THE KIND THAT IS SMALLER AND FEMININE IN DESIGN!

EH...!

OH! ♡

THIS ONE IS SUPER CUTE! ♡

SHE'LL DEFINITELY LOVE THIS ONE!

.....

ナイ

WHY AM I SO STUPID?

THANKS FOR WAITING.

A THANK YOU GIFT FOR TODAY
UM...
THIS IS
YOU SEEMED TO LIKE IT A LOT IT SO I...

I ENDED UP
AN UNSEEMLY

PROBABLY

I'M SO
MAKING YOU
OVER THE

I HAVEN'T
SHOWN HIM

Hotel Elegy

SHIZUKA-SAN!

Hotel Elegy

LET'S REST HERE!

.....

ホテル

えっ

ECH!?

WITHOUT ANY HESITATION!?

Hotel Elegy

NO WAY ...!

Hotel Elegy

Welcome

Welcome

Hotel Elegy

ISN'T THAT A LOVE HOTEL!

HEY YOU!

I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THE STRAIGHT PATH ALONE!

ALWAYS THAT'S JUST A REPLY!

WITH A LAME ONE TOO?

UM...

I GUESS IT WAS TOO LAME?

I ALMOST FROZE TO DEATH.

OUCH

IT'S REALLY HARD TO MAKE PEOPLE FROM KANSAS LAUGH.

HE COMPLETELY DODGED ME...!

THIS GUY IS...

THAT'S NOT IT.

BUT LOOK!

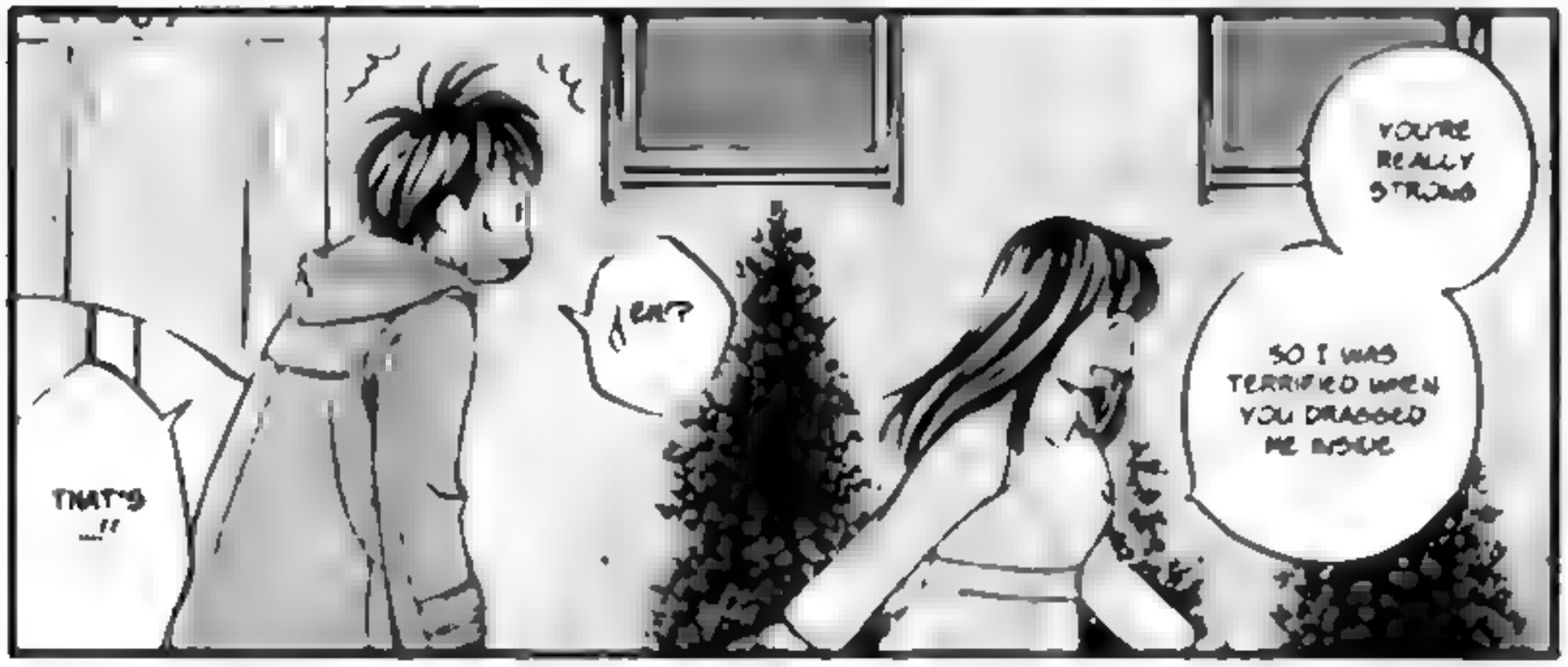
I WAS TRYING TOO HARD TO BE THE STRAIGHT MAN THOUGH.

THE PEOPLE HERE GET MAD IF THE FUNNY MAN DOESN'T HIT THE STRAIGHT MAN RIGHT?

EXTREMELY THICKHEADED!!

I'M SURE EVERYONE WOULD SAY IT WAS LAME.

TO BE HONEST
I WAS REALLY SCARED
MORE THAN LIKE
THAT JUST NOW


YOU'RE REALLY STRONG
SO I WAS TERRIFIED WHEN YOU DRAGGED ME ABOVE
I SEE
OF COURSE
I'M DEEPLY SORRY!

I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A DATE BEFORE

SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT PLACES A GUY AND GIRL GO

I SHOULD

ALSO APOLOGIZE AND [illegible] I JUST

BUT I LEARNED A LOT

I HAD NOT FUN AT ALL

TRUTH IS I DON'T A LOT OF DATING EXPERIENCE EITHER

A DIFFERENT GUY

IT REALLY IS

MY SHORT TIME OFF,

I'M AT THAT AGE

THAT PART OF HIM IS STILL CUTE, BUT PROBLEMATIC...

RUKA-SAN!

HELLO
...

GOOD MORNING!

YOUR TIME OFF STARTS TOMORROW AFTERNOON.

SO JUST HANG IN THERE A LITTLE LONGER!

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK TIRED.

EH?

NO I'M FINE! PERFECTLY FINE!

YEAH ...

..TIME OFF GRANPA?

BY THE WAY...

HOW WAS YOUR ...

I SEE.

GLAD YOU HAD FUN.

ぱぁぁ♡

IT WAS A LOT OF FUN!

I WENT TO A LOT OF STORES!

I HOPE YOU LIKE IT...

It's nothing fancy.

SO,

I BOUGHT ...

YOU THIS SOUVENIR.

....!

IT'S SO CUTE!

THANK YOU...

I'M SO HAPPY ...

WELL,

SEE YOU LATER.

THANK YOU!

VERY MUCH!

HUH?

KURUMI-CHAN!

A PLACE IN KITANO-GAWA

HOW MUCH WAS IT?

THAT'S A REALLY CUTE NECKLACE ♡

WHERE DID YOU BUY IT?

.....

OH FROM A GUY?

IT WAS A GIFT!

CHAPTER 17
PRIZE

IT IS ALMOST AT AN END.

MY LIVE-IN JOB FOR THE WINTER BREAK.

SHIZUKA-SAN!

I MADE YOU PORK STEW,

COOKED OVER RICE,

WITH CHOPPED VEGETABLES

THIS IS ALSO A THANK YOU GIFT FOR CARRYING ALL THE HEAVY STUFF I BOUGHT

I DID SHOW YOU AROUND.

AH BUT,

THAT WAS A THANK YOU GIFT FOR SHOWING ME AROUND KOBE!

THIS IS A THANK YOU GIFT FOR THE NECKLACE. ♡

...IS IT REALLY ALRIGHT FOR ME TO EAT ALL THIS?

WHICH THANK YOU GIFT CAME BEFORE WHICH?

WELL DOES IT MATTER?

BUT,

THAT WAS FOR GIVING ME CURRY BEFORE...

REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THE NECKLACE.

I'M JUST...

COULD IT BE...

THAT KURUMI-SAN IS IN LOVE WITH ME..?

SO SLOW

RUKA-CHAN?

IS THAT FOR...

IT CAN'T BE.

IF SHE WAS,

AH!

BUT I'M GOING BACK SOON.

SO,

I'LL LEAVE IT IN THE FRIDGE AGAIN.

SHE WOULDN'T GO OUT OF HER WAY TO HELP ME PICK OUT A NECKLACE FOR RUKA-SAN.

I LIKE COOKING TO RELIEVE STRESS.

IT'S FINE.

ANYMORE AND I'LL START TO FEEL BAD.

EH!

YOU CAN TAKE CURRY BACK WITH YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

.....

RUKA!

MIKE-SAN,

ARE YOU ALREADY ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK?

HEY YOU!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE RELAXING AT THE FOOT BATHS!

YOU KNOW THAT NECKLACE SHE WAS WEARING!

KURUMI-SAN AND GRANPA ARE GETTING PRETTY INTIMATE!

LOOKS LIKE SHE GOT IT FROM GRANPA!

.....

HE GAVE ME THE SAME NECKLACE.

HUH?

YOU'RE NOT SURPRI-SED?

SIGH ...

I THOUGHT SO.

THE SAME!?

HUH!?

IT'S THE EXACT SAME DESIGN!?

YUP.

HE HAD KURUMI-CHAN SHOW HIM AROUND KOBE DURING HIS TIME OFF

HE BROUGHT ME THIS SOUVENIR...

IT'S NOT A PRESENT. IT'S JUST A SOUVENIR...

WHAT IS HE THINKING?

GIVING THE SAME PRESENT TO TWO GIRLS...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT NORMALLY,

BUT I'M CERTAIN IT'S NOT MEANT AS A SPECIAL GIFT.

Hold up! Where's my damn souvenir!

A SOUVENIR..? THAT'S SOMETHING LIKE DUMPLINGS OR RICE CRACKERS.

NORMALLY YOU ONLY GIVE ACCESSORIES TO A SPECIAL GIRL!

NO MATTER HIS REAL INTENTION. THIS IS A CRIME!

WE NEED TO HAVE HIM EXPLAIN HIMSELF!

.....

I THOUGHT RUKA WAS THE ONE HE'S REALLY AFTER ...

KURUMI-CHAN WAS VERY HAPPY TOO

SHE EVEN MADE HIM A FANCY LUNCH.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT IS AN ABSOLUTE THING.

HMM. THE ONE HE'S AFTER ...

THE FEELINGS OF SOMEONE WHO THINKS OF YOU...

WHOLE-HEARTEDLY CAN SHIFT AS WELL...

IT'S MORE THAN BEING HALFHEARTED SURE THING.

IF IT'S TOO HARD FOR YOU ASK.

WANT ME TO TALK TO HIM FOR YOU?

.....

NO_

IT'S FINE.

COULD YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE..?

JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.

AS LONG AS WE'RE STILL IN AR:MA...

AH!

YOU'RE WORKING THE FRONT DESK TODAY?

HOW'S IT GOING?

YES!

I'VE FINALLY MADE MY FRONT DESK DEBUT!

YEAH ...

I WAS IMMERSED IN SO MUCH SLEEP AND HOT SPRING TIME.

HOW WAS YOUR TIME OFF?

DID YOU GET TO RELAX?

UM...

AH!

WELL,

GOOD LUCK WITH THE FRONT DESK.

SORRY!

CAN WE GO TO THE OPEN AIR BATHS AGAIN DURING LUNCH?

IF YOU'D LIKE...

I'LL BE WORKING HERE...

JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

IF I GO TO THE HOT SPRINGS IN THE AFTERNOON, I'LL GET SLEEPY LATER DURING WORK.

I'M TRYING TO CATCH UP ON MY SLEEP SO I'LL BE TAKING A NAP INSTEAD...

YEAH IT WOULD BE BAD IF IT INTERFERED WITH WORK.

OH IS THAT SO..?

EVEN HAD SO MANY KIND THINGS DONE FOR ME.

I MADE FRIENDS.

I MEMO-RIZED THIS JOB.

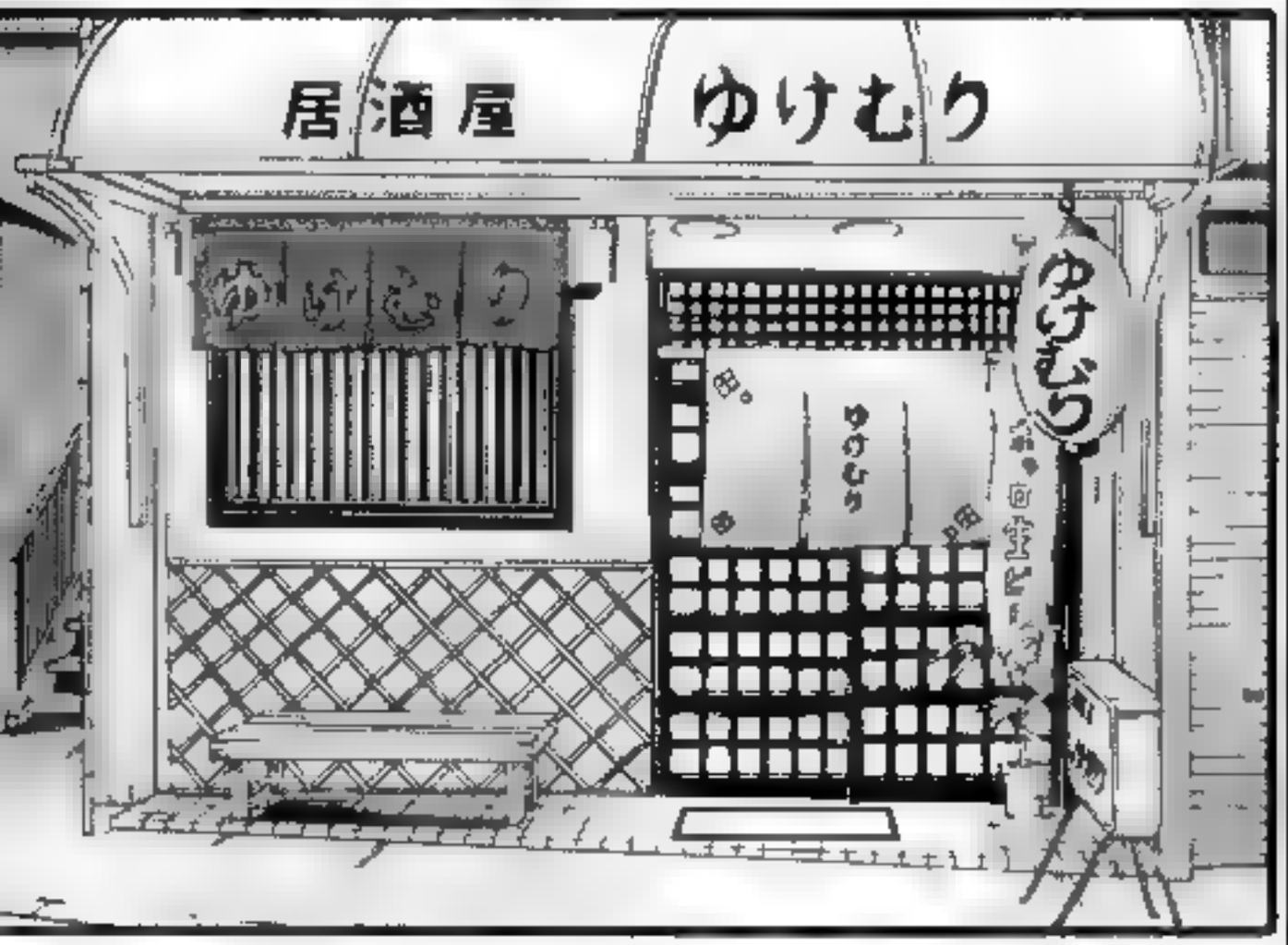
IT WAS MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN I IMAGINED.

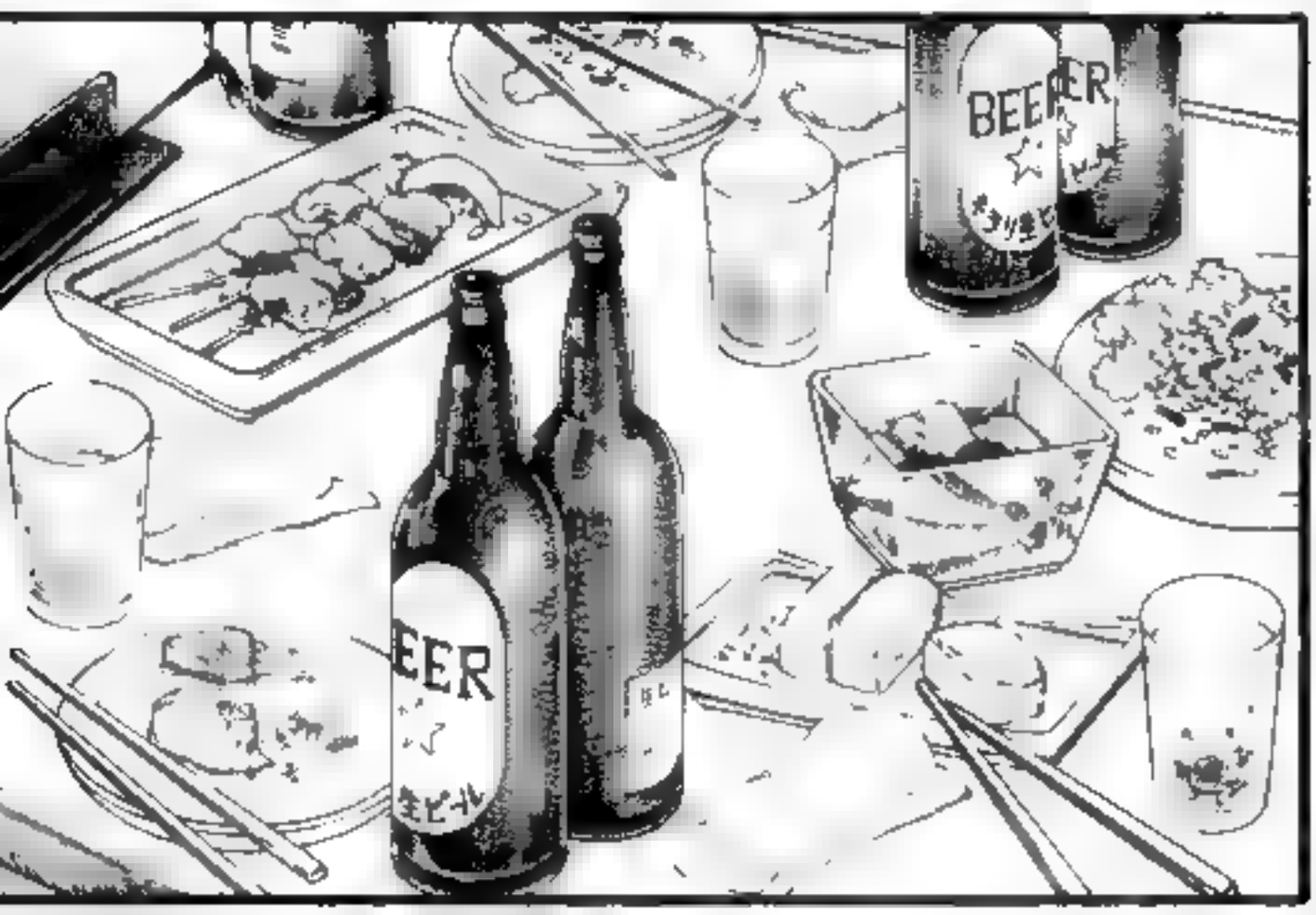
BUT...

I REGRET,

THAT MY EXPECTATIONS TO SPEND TIME ALONE WITH RUKA-SAN...

WENT UNFUL-FILLED.





YOU SHOULD JUST WORK HERE AFTER YOU GRADUATE!
IF I DO COULD YOU PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT ROOM?
YOU BETTER COME NEXT YEAR TOO! YOU GOT IT!

I'M CERTAIN THAT WE'VE GROWN CLOSER.

BUT WILL THOSE FEELINGS END TOO...

一合 500

辛口 山 一合 500

一合 500

WHERE DID RUKA-SAN GO?

HUH?

一合 600

TWO DAYS BEFORE WE LEFT ARIMA,

一合 50

THEY THREW A PARTY FOR THE THREE OF US.

W C

SHE ISN'T HERE EITHER ...

SHE HAS BEEN IN THE BATHROOM A LONG TIME NOW...

BEER

司牡丹 一合550

600

600

おや

YEA

I JUST FELT FLUSHED FROM NOT HAVING ALCOHOL IN A WHILE

SO I CAME OUTSIDE TO COOL OFF

酒屋 ゆけ

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A LITTLE WALK WITH ME?

.....

OH?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, KOMAI-KUN HAS BEEN IN THE BATHROOM FOR A LONG TIME TOO.

.....

RUKA-CHAN HASN'T COME BACK YET.

I'LL GO CHECK HE'S NOT SMASHED ON THE BATHROOM FLOOR.

HE'S PRETTY DRUNK.

GIVE THOSE TWO SOME ALONE TIME!

DON'T BE SO BOORISH.

.....!

ヘタコイ❸

HUH? UNBELIE-VABLE!

NO FREAKING WAY!? THOSE TWO ARE AN ITEM!?

KOMAI-KUN IS SURPRISINGLY GOOD!!

I'M FINE! YES I AM!

AREN'T YOU COLD WITHOUT A COAT?

THE BOOZE IS KEEPING ME WARM

.....

TAKING A WALK WITH RUKA-SAN AT NIGHT IS THE BEST THING EVER. ♡

INDEED I AM ♡

YOU'RE IN HIGH SPIRITS

AFTER YOU LEFT WITH RUKA-SAN I DRANK A GOOD MOOD TOO

SETTING ALL GLOOMY NOW

OH YEAH I FORGOT

THIS GUY'S PERSONALITY CHANGES WHEN DRUNK.

HEY!

LET'S GO UNDER THE BRIDGE

YOU WON'T SEE KURUMI-CHAN ANYMORE!

YUP WE ARE

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW WE LEAVE ARIMA, HUH?

SUCH A PITY WE HAVE TO LEAVE...

HE DIDN'T GET MY SARCASM AT ALL.

THE TWO OF YOU REALLY GET ALONG SO WELL.

.....

YOU GAVE KURUMI-CHAN... THE SAME ONE...

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED THAT...

THAT SOUVENIR.

YOU GAVE ME GRANPA...

THAT WAS MY CLEVER SURPRISE!

I KNOW RIGHT!?

!?

WHEN I WAS HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING ON WHICH ONE TO GET. KURUMI-SAN RECOMMENDED THAT ONE.

THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME!

SURPRISE?

CLEVER?

LIKE HAIR PINS AND CELLPHONE STRAPS.

I DON'T REALLY GET THAT SORT OF MENTALITY

What?

GIRLS.

REALLY LIKE WEARING MATCHING STUFF

SINCE YOU BOTH LIVE FAR APART AND DON'T GET TO SEE EACH OTHER THAT OFTEN.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT.

I DON'T GET IT EITHER!?

A CHANCE TO REMEMBER EACH OTHER.

IT GIVES YOU TWO...

THAT'S WHY I THINK IT'S PERFECT

MAYBE YOU'D TRY CALLING EACH OTHER ONCE IN A WHILE

AND WHEN YOU DO

.....

!!

...AAA?

OH SORRY

SO MANY THINGS

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

THAT'S JUST SO OUT OF PLACE!

BUT I'M REALLY GLAD.

I CAME HERE.

THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM..

IT WASN'T AN EASY JOB.

AND THAT MAKES ME EXTREMELY HAPPY.

BUT I MADE THE GUESTS HAPPY

?

AH!

THAT'S SO TRUE.

BUT!

THOSE GUESTS WHO WERE ALL GIDDY HUGGING YOU!

JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME ANGRY TO NO END!

……

SO I TRY TO BE REALLY PATIENT...

BUT THEY GET SO HAPPY ABOUT RECEIVING JUST ONE HUG.

SAME HERE.

AT FIRST I FOUND THOSE KINDS OF GUESTS UNACCEPTABLE AS WELL,

So don't get so angry!

IT'S LIKE GIVING YOUR DAD A PRIZE AFTER A HARD DAY AT WORK

……

ヘタコイ❸

I DID MY BEST

I WORKED HARD TOO!

IN THAT CASE...

I WANT A PRIZE TOO!

.....

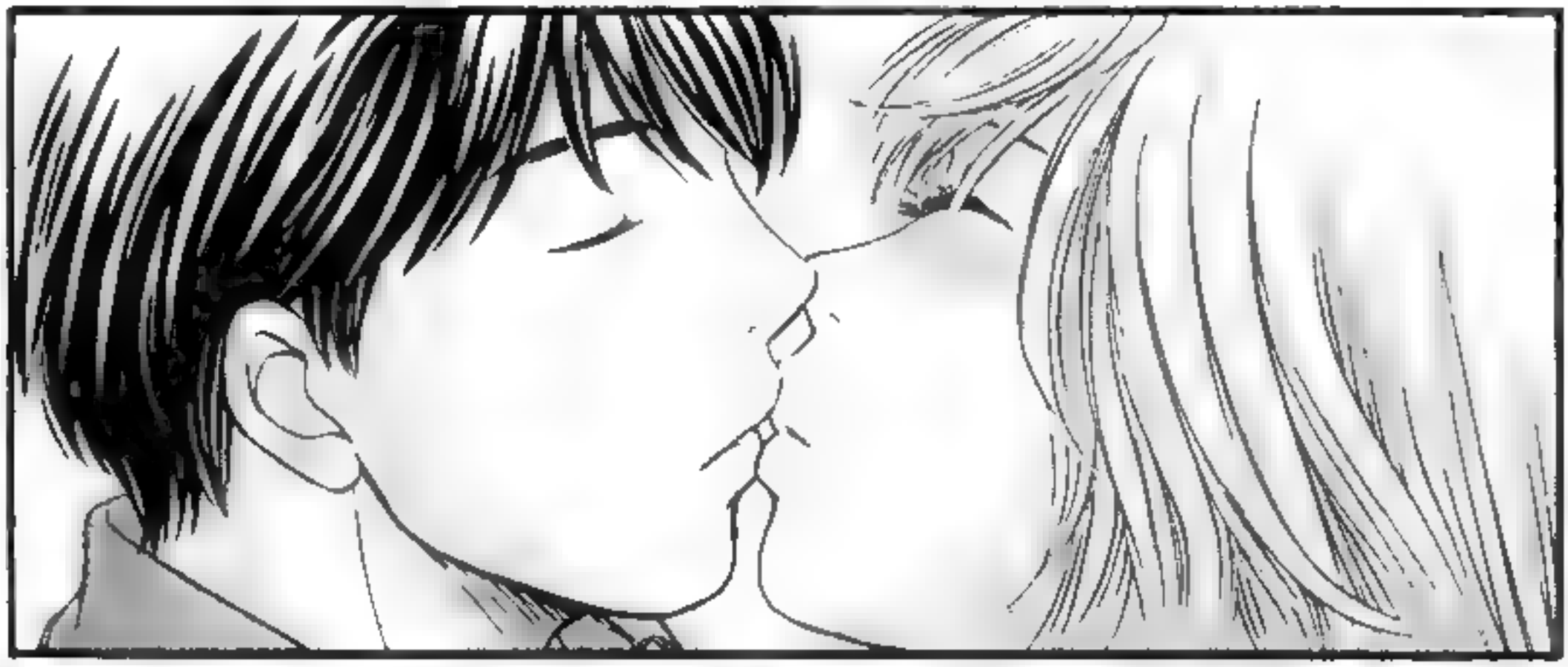
.....

GRAMPA!

FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

THANK YOU!

.....!



WE SHOULD HEAD BACK.
.....

.....

WE WALKED BACK IN SILENCE WHILE HOLDING HANDS.

CHAPTER 18
CONFIRMATION

……

IT WAS NOT A DREAM.

RUKA-SAN.

I KISSED …

ヘタコイ❸

……
ねぇ、ねぇ、
W-WHAT IS IT?
EVEN THOUGH RIEKO-SAN TOLD US TO ACT LIKE WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...
I CAN'T TAKE IT!
I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

HUH!?

HOW DID YOU END UP WITH RUKA-CHAN!?

TELL ME!

THEN WHAT WERE YOU TWO DOING WHEN LEFT THE PARTY HALFWAY!?

W-W ...

WE REALLY AREN'T THOUGH ...

EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS YOU ARE DATING.

WE WERE BOTH DRUNK.

UNFORTU-NATELY...

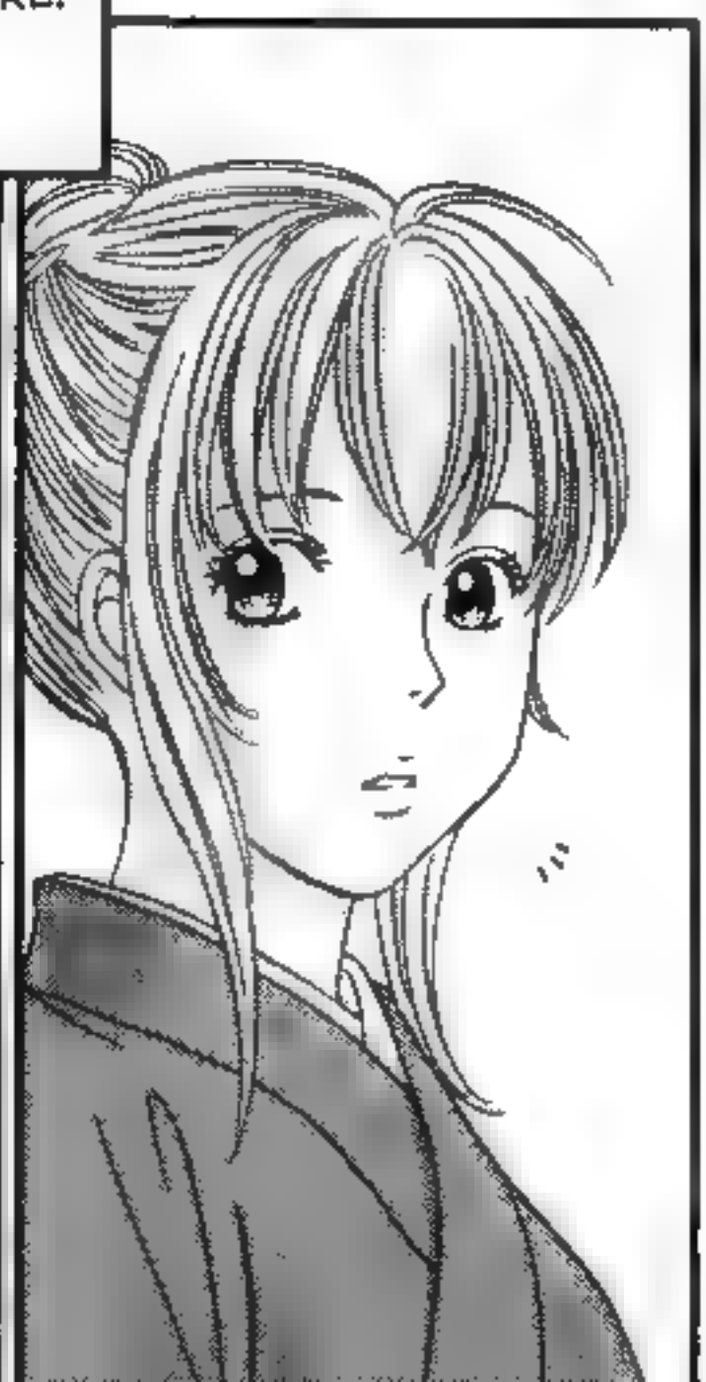
REALLY THAT'S ALL?

IT'S A ONE SIDED LOVE ON MY PART...

THAT WAS...

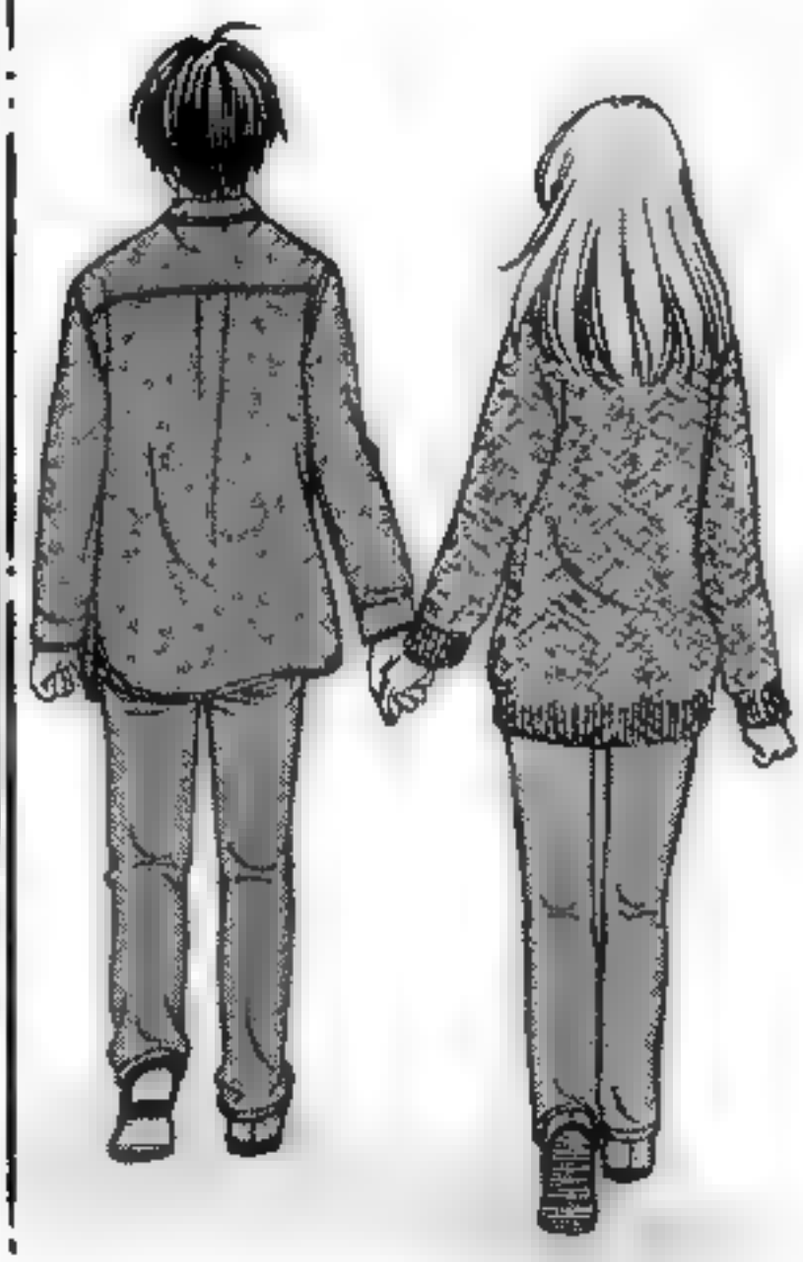
WE WERE DRUNK AND JUST WENT OUT FOR A WALK.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE.



WE KISSED.

WE HELD HANDS AND WALKED.



WAS SHE JUST UNDER...

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ALCOHOL OR...

ぽっ。

BUT I'M AFRAID TO...

.....

THEN,

LET'S ALL GO INTO THE HOT SPRING ONE THE LAST TIME.

YEAH ...

.....

AND I'D GET BORED IF STICK AROUND ALONE.

THE TWO OF THEM HAVE CLASSES.

SO YOU'RE GOING BACK TO TOKYO TOMORROW RIGHT?

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO COME...

SHE SAID SHE WANTED JUST THE TWO OF US TO TALK...

HUH?

WHAT HAPPENED TO MIKE-SAN?

.....

SAME HERE ...

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CONFIRM.

RUKA-CHAN.

ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SHIZUKA-SAN?

YES.

I AM.

MY FEELINGS...

FOR HIM CLEARLY

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND -

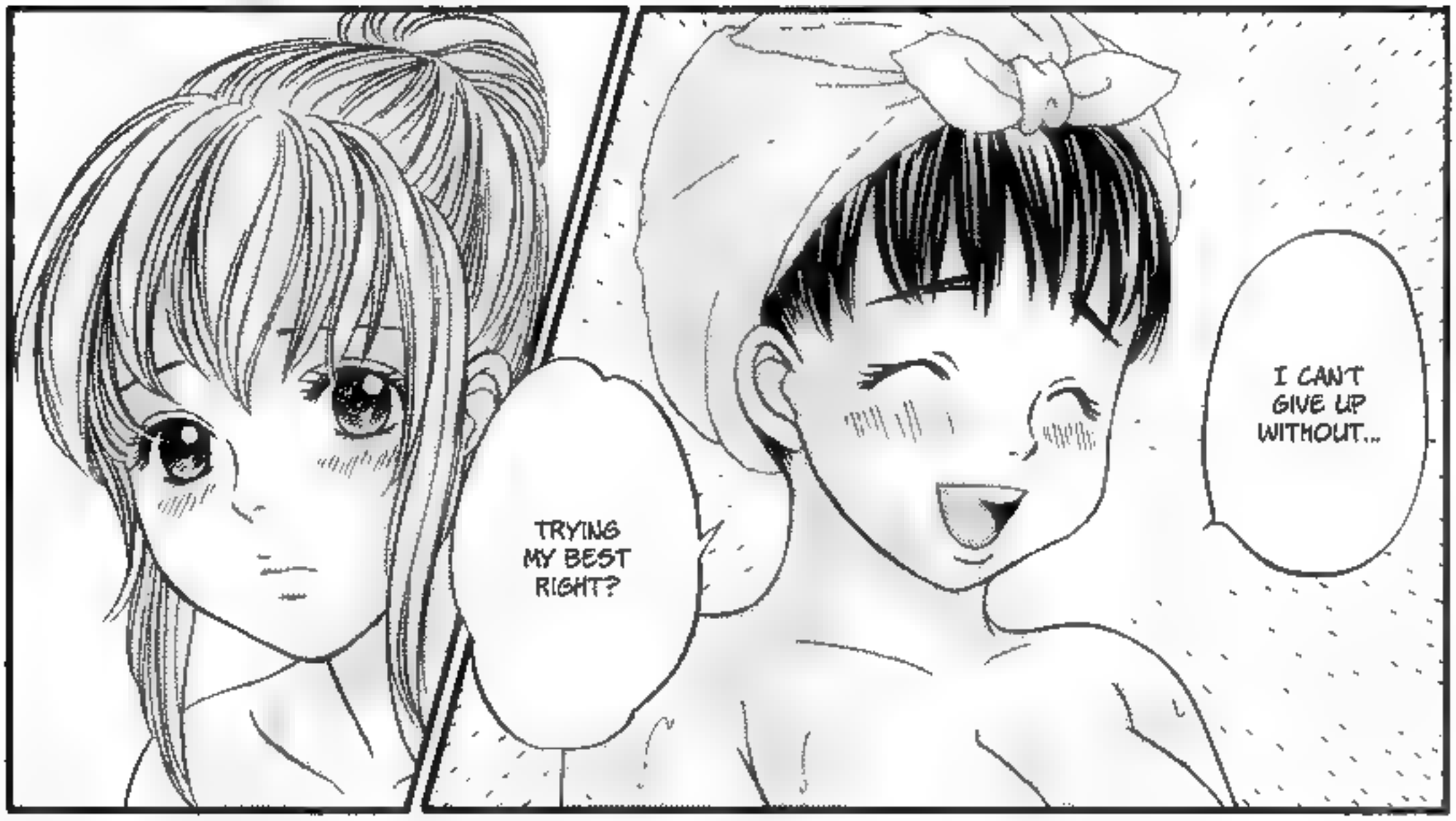
HAVE SAID SOMETHING -

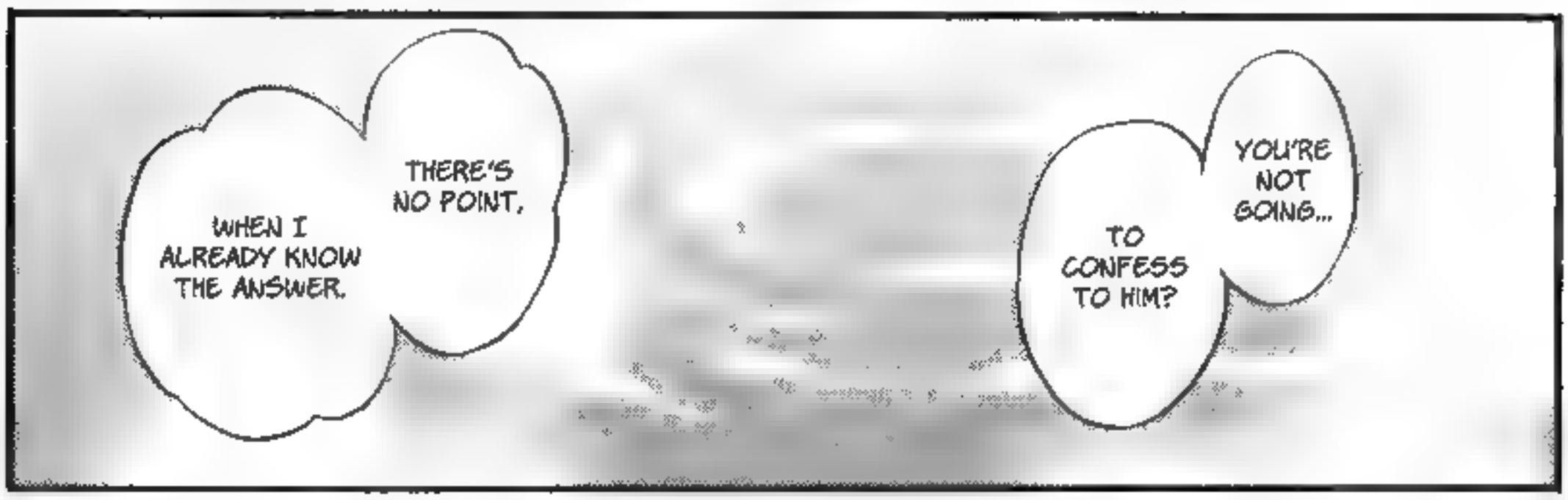
WHEN YOU FIRST ASKED ME...

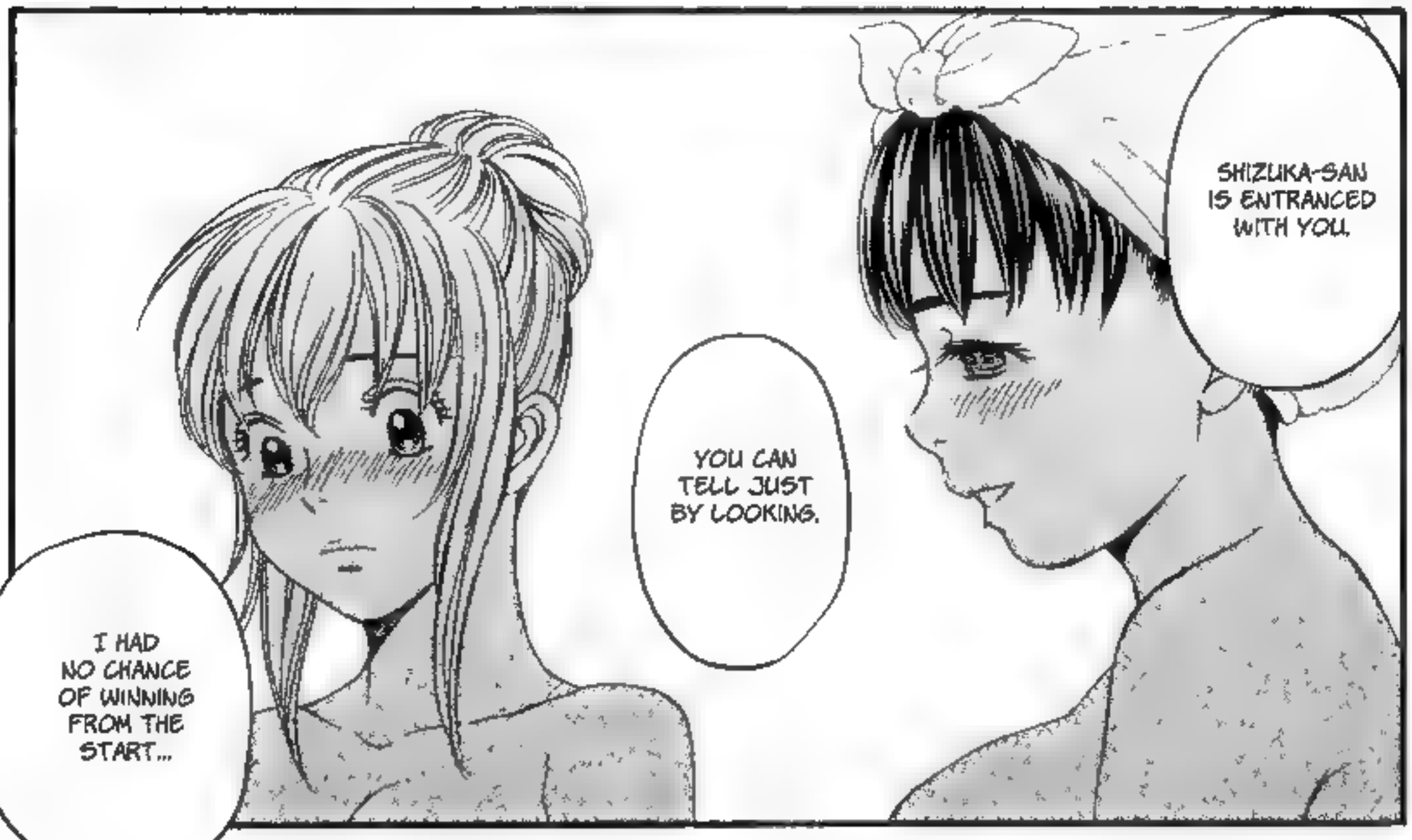
I SHOULD

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I'M GLAD YOU GAVE ME A CHANCE


TRYING MY BEST RIGHT?
I CAN'T GIVE UP WITHOUT...


THERE'S NO POINT, WHEN I ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
YOU'RE NOT GOING... TO CONFESS TO HIM?


SHIZUKA-SAN IS ENTRANCED WITH YOU.
YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING.
I HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING FROM THE START...

IF...

I THOUGHT MAYBE HE MIGHT WANT ME...

YOU TURNED HIM DOWN,

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

BUT I'M GLAD I ASKED YOU...

ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS FOR HIM.

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR "I'M SORRY", OK!

KURUMI-CHAN...

ヘタコイ❸

Te-he

ALTHOUGH YOU GAVE ME THE CHANCE,

HE EVEN BOUGHT ME A NECKLACE. ♡

I DID HAVE FUN AS WELL.

BUT A MATCHING SET,

NOT GIVEN A CHANCE,

RIGHT?

COOKING FOR SOMEONE YOU LIKE,

AND WALKING AROUND TOWN TOGETHER...

YUP!

YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

MATCHING SET?

HONESTLY I THOUGHT THE SAME.

"HOW FOOLISH CAN HE BE!"

HE GAVE YOU THE SAME ONE!?

WHAT KIND OF MORON IS HE...!

HIS INTENTION WAS TO GIVE US SOMETHING THAT WOULD REMIND US ABOUT EACH OTHER EVEN THOUGH WE LIVE FAR APART.

SO THAT'S WHY IT'S A "MATCHING SET".

BUT,

THAT'S REALLY FOOLISH...

.....

ヘタコイ❸

THAT PART OF HIM...

IS CUTE AND PROBLE-MATIC...

YUP...

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT EXCHANGE...

.....

YOU HAVE GOT TO MAKE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN FRIEND AND THE GIRL YOU'RE AFTER.

YOU CAN CALL IT FOOLISH OR JUST OUT OF PLACE...

JUST LIKE HIM...

YEAH ...

UNTIL MUCH, MUCH LATER.

SHIZUKA-SAN!

WE'LL GO ON AHEAD TO LOOK AT SOUVENIRS.

UM...

OKAY ...

THIS IS...

FOR THE THREE OF YOU TO EAT ON THE TRAIN.

I DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME SO IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

YOU'VE BEEN SO KIND TO ME...

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SPECIAL.

HUH?

I...

DON'T GET ALONG WITH YOUNGER MEN.

RIGHT?

DOESN'T SEEM THAT WAY...

.....

I'M FINE WITH OLDER GUYS AND GRANDPAS.

WITH GUYS MY AGE I BECOME TOO GUARDED AND CAN'T REALLY TALK WITH THEM.

OUTSIDE OF WORK.

WHY...

IS IT SO EASY TO TALK WITH YOU?

BECAUSE I ACT LIKE AN OLD FART?

HEHE!

THAT MIGHT BE IT!

THAT'S WHY...

YOU'RE SPECIAL TO ME.

YOU'RE THE FIRST GUY I GOT TO KNOW BETTER.

I'M REALLY HAPPY.

I FEEL HONORED

ME TOO

AND THUS,

WE BID FAREWELL TO THE ARIMA HOT SPRINGS ...

KURUMI-SAN...

WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A GOOD WIFE ONE DAY!

SHE'S SO CUTE.

YET NONE OF THE STAFF GIVE HER ATTENTION.

HOW COULD YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SAY THAT!
THEY MUST BE BLIND!

BUT...

I'M SURE,
SHE WILL FIND HERSELF AN EXCELLENT HUSBAND.

INDEED!

I DID NOT GET ANY CONFIRMATION OF RUKA-SAN'S FEELING,

IN THE END,

BONSA BANZA

BUT...

BROTHER!!

JUST HER WEARING THE NECKLACE I GAVE HER...

IS PLENTY FOR ME NOW.

WEL...!

ナデナデ

EVEN THE KITCHEN AND SINK ARE CLEAN!

OOH!

IT'S ALRIGHT

YOU DID A GREAT JOB YUU WHILE I WAS OUT!

WELL THE REASON FOR THAT IS....

SHE WAS HERE EVERY, EVERY, EVERY, EVERY, EVERY, EVERY, EVERY DAY TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE....

. BECAUSE YOU ASKED KOTONO OR SOMETHING.

.....

ANY-THING ELSE?

ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR HAPPEN?

GRATEFUL!? IT WAS A BIG PROBLEM!!

SHOULDN'T YOU BE GRATEFUL ...?

THANKS TO THAT I HAD TO BREAK UP WITH MY GIRL AFTER BIG FIGHT...

I had a feeling

I SEE ...

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IMPATIENTLY I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN BRO.

A POSTCARD FOR A MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS REUNION CAME FOR YOU!

HMM...

JUST HMM?

AH!

YOUR CLASS REUNION!

I ALREADY SEE MY CLUB FRIENDS.

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE I'D LIKE TO SEE AGAIN...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO?

NAGISA SHIMAZU! ♡

YES THERE IS!

ヘタコイ❸

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'S GOING TO BE THERE.

SHE WILL BE THERE!

SHE'S THE ORGANIZER AFTER ALL.

.....

GO AND TAKE LOTS OF PICTURES OF HER!

HM?

.....

1-0-0-0-1
東京都三鷹市××6丁目××-××-××
島 洋 なおき 行

IT'LL BE FINE IF IT'S A LITTLE LATE.

TELL ME THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YESTERDAY WAS THE DEADLINE TO REPLY.

AH!

ピロロロロロ♪

ピロロロロロ♪

YOUR PHONE IS RINGING!

BRO!

THAT'S PROBLEMATIC FOR THE ORGANIZER.

HEY,

DID YOU GET THE POSTCARD ABOUT THE CLASS REUNION?

!

YES HELLO?

JEEZ!

KOMAI?

SHE GOES STRAIGHT TO BUSI-NESS...

WELL ...

I ALREADY GO TO PLENTY OF CLUB MEET UPS.

SO I'LL HAVE TO PASS.

AH...YES I DID...

BUT I WAS AWAY SO I COULDN'T REPLY...

SO?

ARE YOU COMING?

HER BLUNT VOICE IS...

WHAT?

AND I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN TOO.

SO NOSTALGIC ...

YES ...

ME TOO...

THEN LET'S HANG OUT.

!

NAGISA SHIMAZU, SHE WAS IN MY CLASS SENIOR YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

OK...

THE GIRL WHO REJECTED THE KOMAI BROTHERS ...

島津 なぎさ

THE SUMMER OF SENIOR YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL ...

ヘタコイ

hetakoi

HOBO-1

3

NAKANO JUNKO

中野純子